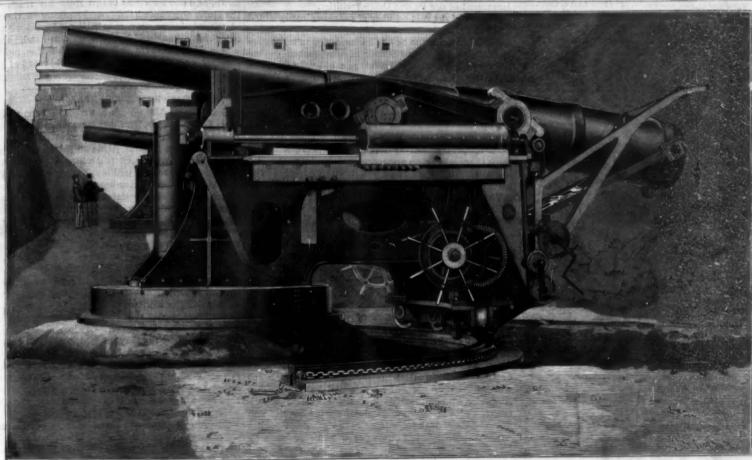
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A WEEKLY JOURNAL OF PRACTICAL INFORMATION, ART, SCIENCE, MECHANICS, CHEMISTRY, AND MANUFACTURES.

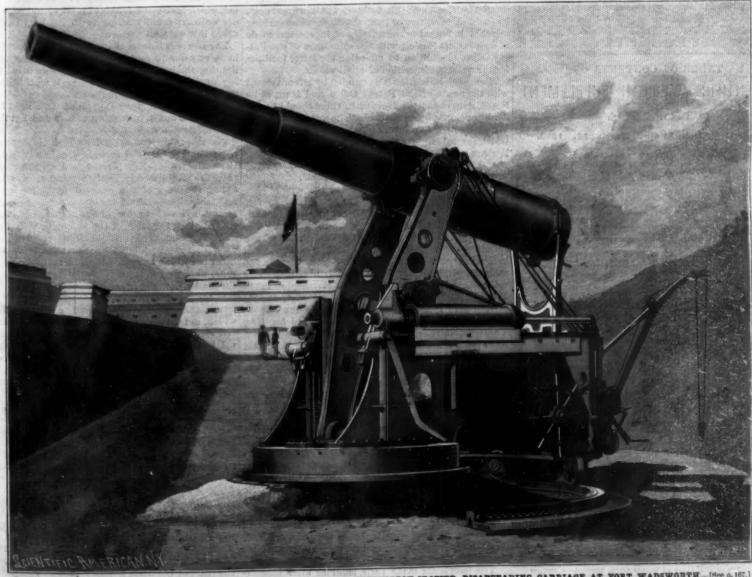
Vol. LXXIV.-No. 11.

NEW YORK, MARCH 14, 1896

TEN. OO A YEAR.



THE BUFFINGTON-CROZIER BARBETTE DISAPPEARING CARRIAGE LOWERED.



THE DEFENSE OF NEW YORK HARBOR-EIGHT INCH GUN MOUNTED ON BUFFINGTON-CROZIER DISAPPEABING CARRIAGE AT FORT WADSWORTH, [See p. 167.]

# Scientific American.

ESTABLISHED 1845

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The Scientific American Supplement
(Entablished 1876)

a distinct paper from the Scientific American Supplement
(Entablished 1876)

a distinct paper from the Scientific American. The SUPPLEMENT could workly. Every number contains 16 octa-ro pages, uniform in size the Scientific American. The Supplement of Scientific American. Scientific American and Control of Scientific American. Scientific American and Union. Scientific American scientific for Scientific American Scientific American scientific and Scientific American scientific and Scientific American scient

Building Edition of Scientific American. (Established 1885.)

BUILDING EDITION OF THE SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN is a large and dly illustrated periodical, issued monthly, containing floor plans repective views pertaining to modern agreement and a superiodical issued monthly, containing floor plans and architectural store in the superiodical states and architectural store in the superiodical states and architectural store in the more in traduction. The superiodical states are superiodical states and the more is invaluable.

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Expert Edition of the Scientific American (Established 1878)

which is measuromated. LA AMERICAN PROBLEM INDUSTRIAL," or isse edition of the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN published monthly, unifin size and typography with the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN. Every numerical special expect political, it is the finest scientific, strill expect pager published. It is the finest scientific, strill expect pager published. It is circulated throughout Caba, the Indies, Mexico, Central and South America, Spain and Spanish powers of the Spain and Spanish powers. Scientific and the Caba the Caba, the Caba the Caba, the Caba the C

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NEW YORK, SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 1896.

| Aluminum, cerrostom of | Oil lantern, a lighthouse* Oil of caneia. Patents granted, weekly record of. Patent Office legislation, needed Photographic slides Pictures under artificial light. Planting cheek row device, Anathr's Potatoes, phenomenal growth of Railroad celluion, a curious* Rabber shoes sixty years ago. Science notes. | 166<br>160<br>170<br>170<br>170<br>170<br>170<br>160<br>170<br>170<br>160<br>160<br>170<br>170<br>160<br>160<br>170<br>170<br>160<br>160<br>160<br>160<br>160<br>160<br>160<br>160<br>160<br>16 |
|------------------------|---|---|
|------------------------|---|---|

TABLE OF CONTENTS OF

### SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN SUPPLEMENT

No. 1054.

For the Week Ending March 14, 1896.

Price 10 cents. For sale by all newsdealers

IV. BALLISTICS.-The Polari

illustrations.

Magnets for Lifting Purposes. An interesting utilias an actic truction in the lifting of heavy weights.—4 illustrations.

VI: MISCELLAN HOUS.—The Carnival at Nice.—A curiosity of the carnival in the Mediterranean city. I diustration.
Theatrical Science. The Mask of Estamon.—An interesting example of stare magic of the more claborate description fully de-

TRAVEL AND EXPLORATION.-come of the Italian and Abyasinian Emparor and Empress of Abyasinia.—I Descent of the Abyas of Gaping 6 antaral well or savers in Yorkshire.

#### NEEDED PATENT OFFICE LEGISLATION.

Year by year the lack of ample appropriations to provide a sufficient force at the Patent Office for the rapid conduct of business becomes more manifest and should lead all legislators interested in the welfare of their country and the progress of invention to regard this most useful branch of the government with liberal ideas of its needs. Inventors, we presume, as a rule, do not appreciate the power they might have in shaping good legislation for their interests by personally urging upon the respective representatives and senators from their sections of the country the necessities for more liberal laws regarding patents and the enlargement of the Patent Office facilities.

In view of the vast number of patents already issued and the increasing number of applications now being made each week, the new bill introduced in the House of Representatives and Senate at Washington during the present session, and known as a bill "To establish a classification division in the United States Patent Office." is most timely and is a step in a direction which will be of great service and utility to inventors in the future. It has the unanimous approval, not only of the officials of the Patent Office, but of every sincere friend of the inventor, and has been favorably acted upon by the committees in the House and Senate. We hope there will be no unnecessary delay in its becoming a law, and that there will be no pruning of the amounts asked for.

The bill provides for the establishment in the Patent Office of a new division, to be called the "Classifica-tion Division," to be managed by one primary examiner, having a salary of \$2,750 per year; two first assistant examiners, each \$1,800 per year; two second assistant examiners, at \$1.600 per year; three third assistant examiners, at \$1,400 per year; and thirty-six fourth assistant examiners at \$1,200 per year; and clerks, copyists and messengers-in all equal to \$64,590. Each person is to be appointed by the Secretary of the Iuterior, upon the nomination of the Commissioner of Patents, subject to the rules and regulations of the Civil Service Commissioner.

"The Commissioner of Patents shall assign to this division the duty of preparing a philosophical classification of the subject matter of all letters patent which have been granted in this and in the foreign countries, and of printed publications which constitute the field of search in ascertaining the novelty and patentability of applications for patents, together with such other duties having relation hereto as may be considered necessary by the commissioner."

Not only will the methodical and uniform classification of the letters patent issued by the United States be effected, but also the patents of foreign countries and printed publications; this certainly will be a great gain, by enabling inventors or their solicitors, when making searches in regard to the novelty of inventions, to do so on an equal footing with the examiners of the Patent Office, in addition to affording the latter facilities for the quicker disposition of applications.

When such legislation is demanded by all conversant with the needs of the Patent Office and is urged by the officials connected therewith, there should be no doubt about its being enacted. The sooner the better. We shall allude in a future number to another bill, in which several important amendments to the existing law are proposed.

### A PHENOMENAL WIND STORM.

The wind record for February in the city of New York and vicinity was very remarkable, and so far, March, which is considered the most blustering month of the year, bids fair to sustain its reputation. The number of miles traveled by the wind in New York City in February was 14,402, or 6,167 miles more than same month in 1895. This record is also 6,657 miles more than in March, 1894, and 8,722 more than in March, 1895. Local forecaster Dunn stated to our representative that the gale which struck the city on Wednesday, March 4, made a new record for New York; for, at 12:40 P.M., the wind attained a velocity of 82 miles per hour for one minute, the next bighest record in this storm being 80 miles an hour for one minute. The best record for five minutes was at the rate of 72 miles (average) per hour.

From noon on Monday to noon on Tuesday-the twenty-four hour record, as it is called-the wind travby an ocean liner in the same period, or more than a day's run of an express train); from noon on Tuesthe next twenty-four hours, 1.076 miles. This great northwest windstorm played havoe with various structures and with commerce and pedestrians. sailing craft came into port by way of Sandy Hook, and the steam craft made progress with exto anchor.

Ferry, N. J., and similar accidents occurred elsewhere; men were also blown from boats. A platform was blown upon a track of a railroad and an engine was wrecked in consequence of running into it. freight cars of the New York & New Haven Railroad were unroofed. Fences, windows and roofs in localities in the path of the storm suffered severely. But it was in New York City that the storm was particularly severe. Around the high buildings the wind raged and howled, making progress against it well nigh impossible. In some office buildings two men were stationed by each door simply to open it against the pressure of the wind. Some pedestrians were even thrown down, and one man was blown from his truck when the storm was at its height, and walking in the teeth of the wind was very exhausting. It was with difficulty that a hat could be kept on the head. On the whole, New Yorkers suffered one of the most unpleasant experiences since the great blizzard of March 12 and 13, 1888.

#### NEW YORK HARBOR.

The harbor of New York has recently been the scene of an unusual number of maritime disasters. The St. Paul last month ran ashore at a point but a few miles from its mouth, the Campania on the same occasion is said to have narrowly escaped a like fate, and although the St. Paul escaped without structural damage, her wrecking bill must have been very large, and the loss of her services, due to detention from sailing, and the expense of dry docking, required by the underwriters before she could be admitted as a risk for insurance, represent a large sum of money. Her stranding was due to fog. But a few days ago, on Saturday, February 29, a fog spread over the waters of New York Harbor, and an unprecedentedly bad record was made for the disasters of a single day. On this particular day the French steamer La Bourgogne ran into the Atlas Line ship Ailsa, both outward bound, the latter sinking in deep water and the French ship returning badly damaged. The George W. Clyde of the Clyde Line was run into by the Guyandotte of the Old Dominion Line, and was beached badly damaged. Just below the Narrows the American Line steamship New York ran aground in the fog, backed off and worked along slowly to again go aground more firmly than before, so that some days elapsed before she escaped. These were the principal disasters of a memorable day.

The number and variety of these disasters render the necessity of furnishing New York Harbor with the best available system of marine lighting an imperative duty. To procure a light that will be available during a fog is well nigh impossible. We show on another page the present system of lighting the channel, which is efficient for night service, and which, under ordinary conditions, serves to light up the channel as if it were an avenue.

The recent accidents that we have mentioned were in no way due to any defect in the present system of lighting the barbor, as most of them occurred in the fog during the day time. There is much, however, that remains to be done to prevent such accidents, not only in the way of producing an efficient light for use during fogs, but in furnishing vessels and lighthouses with efficient fog signals.

The main ship channel of New York Harbor pursues a particularly devious course. On Sandy Hook, on the mainland of New Jersey and on Staten Island there are established range lights and screens for enabling the lines of the channels to be followed, the main ship channel being the longest and most winding. In the daytime long lines of buoys, red and black, are ranged along the sides of the channels, with channel and danger buoys also, so that once the long lane is entered, it can be followed without the least trouble, in February, 1894, and 5,595 miles more than in the if the buoys can be seen. Until recently the lights on shore were the only guides that were maintained for the mariner's use at night.

In the article on another page we describe the very remarkable electrically lighted buoy installation which, in face of some opposition from the conservative element, has been placed along Gedney's Channel, lighting over a mile of its length. A ship now makes the night run through the outer lines of the bar, where she is furthest from the range lights on shore, by a system of lighted buoys exactly comparable to street lamps.

#### THE OLYMPIAN GAMES.

In the month of April, historic Athens, the scene of so many notable athletic contests, will be invaded by day, March 8, to noon of Wednesday 875 miles; and in the athletes of the modern world, and the sports of the ancient Greeks will be resurrected, and modern games will also be introduced. Two years ago, at the Paris Athletic Congress, it was decided to revive the "Olympian Games," which first took place in the year 776 B C., for it was then that the regular catalogue of treme difficulty. The health officer of the port of Olympic victors begins. The Olympian Games were New York was not able to board the steamer Kaiser the greatest of the four Panhellenie festivals of the Wilhelm I at quarantine, and the vessel was compelled ancient Greeks. They were celebrated at intervals of four years, in honor of Zeus, in a sacred inclosure in The ferryboats made their landings after long de- the plain of Olympia, a valley in Elis, Peloponnesus, lays. A woman was blown from a train near Little Greece. The importance of the games was so great

that the Greeks computed time by them. The period of or years between one celebration and the next was ided an "Olympiad." The games had also the priviof suspending wars during the time necessary to to the festival and return. Since the eighteenth ( vmpiad, in 708 B. C., those who had shown themsolves qualified entered in the lists for the javelin The best four champions in this trial pres ated themselves for the foot race, which eliminated ne contestant. There then remained three for the quoits and two for wrestling. A crown of wild olive as the reward of the victor. When he returned to his native city, the walls were torn down to give him entrance; he was borne in a triumphant procession, and he was given freedom from taxes. The Olympic dames were only abolished by Theodosius in A. D. 394. The contests were all held in the stadium, which find a place around the arena. The stadium is 656 feet long and 100 feet wide, and there are twenty-five ranges of seats. The seats, steps, etc., are built of stone from the Piraeus and of Pentelie marble. Thanks to the munificence of a wealthy Grecian gentleman, the work of repairing the stadium was done. In the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN for January 11, 1896, the work of restoring the ancient stadium is illustrated.

In one respect the coming games will be remarkable, as women may now compete in the arena for athletic had a special ship built for his trip, the Fram. She Greenland and thence to the east back to Christian-

honors, according to the old Grecian custom. The games will inaugurate a series of international contests, the next being held in Paris in 1900. The Olympian Games will begin April 6, the seventy-fifth anniversary of the proclamation of Greek independence, and will continue for five days. The games will be under the presidency of H. R. H. the Crown Prince of Greece. The games will consist of athletic sports, including:

Running Contests.-Flat races for distances of 100, 400, 800, and 1,500 meters; also a hurdle race of 110 meters, under the rules of the Union des Sociétés Françaises de Sports Athlétiques. Special cross country race, from Marathon to Athens, a distance of forty-two kilometers, for the cups offered by Mr. Michel Breal. The winning post for this race will be at the Panathenaic Stadium restored through the munificence of the Hellenie citizen Georges Avéroff. Competitions also in long and high jumps, pole jumps, putting the weight and disk. There will also be gymnastic competitions; fencing and wrestling, also foil, saber, and sword exercises for amateurs and profes-Wrestling - Roman and Greek

Shooting with any kind of rifle (military or otherwise), distance 200 and 300 meters; and with revolvers.

Nautical sports will include yachting (supplementary programme). Steam yacht race under the rules of the "Cercle de la Voile de Paris," distance 10 miles. Sailing races under the English Yacht Racing Association's rules and tonnage regulations. 1. For yachts of not more than 8 tons (in two ections, if necessary), distance 5 miles. 2 For yachts from 8 to 10 tons, distance 10 miles. 3. For yachts from 10 to 20 tons, distance 10 miles. 4. For yachts of more than 20 tons, distance 10 miles. Races will also be arranged for native sailing vessels Rowing, single sculler, seamen.

2,000 meters over a straight course (skiffs); double scullers, over a straight course, for yawls and outriggers; four oar race, over a straight course, for yawls. A special race will be arranged for men-of-war crews, The rules will be as those of the Italian Rowing Club. Swimming.-Long and short distance races, for distance varying from 100 to 1,000 meters. There will also be water polo competitions.

Cycling.-Short distance races. 2,000 meters on the track without pace makers; 10,000 meters on the track without pace makers. 100 kilometers on the track with pace makers. Twelve hours' race on the track with

Lawn Tennis.-Single, double (Rules of the All England Lawn Tennis Association). Cricket (under the rules of the Marylebone Cricket Club). Football (Rugby and Association).

M. RAOUL PICTET, who has done much original chemical work at low temperatures, suggests that by making use of low temperatures syntheses may be obtained which would be otherwise impossible. In many chemical operations the heat generated so raises the general temperature of the bodies acted upon that all control over the combination is lost. At very low temperatures, however, all chemical action ceases. By choosing the right temperature, therefore, reaction hetween chemicals may be made as slow as desired. By this means M. Pictet has effected combinations that are impossible at ordinary temperatures.

#### NANSEN'S POLAR EXPEDITION.

As our readers are aware, the news has been published in the daily press to the effect that a report from Irkutsk in Siberia has been received, stating that Nansen had discovered the North Pole, and was now on his way home. The report has not been definitely confirmed. We present our readers a map of the North Polar region, believing that it will be of interest to recall some of the particulars of his expedition.

We have in several of our SUPPLEMENTS described the pathetic starting of the expedition from Christiania, the little ship passing close by the explorer's home, where his wife, dressed in white, and the companion of many of his trips, standing on the shore, aw the last of her husband.

The theory on which the expedition was based was that ocean currents exist whose direction is from was so constructed that fifty thousand spectators could | the islands of New Siberia across the North Polar region to Greenland. The Jeannette sank off these islands and it was claimed that relics of the Jeannette were picked up on the shores of Greenland. Other drift relies were cited as additional proofs of these currents. In the face of this theory there were most emphatic denials, not only of the existence of such currents, but even of the authenticity of the finding of the relics.

Basing his expedition on this theory, Dr. Nansen

AMERIQUE REGION

NANSEN'S PROPOSED ROUTE. THE STARRED LINE SHOWS COURSE OF DRIFTWOOD FROM THE JEANNETTE.

With a consumpscrew, rather of the auxiliary type. tion of 2% tons of coal a day the Fram would develop a speed of 6 miles an hour, the idea being to use sail whenever possible and economize coal for use in emergencies. She was built with a very round bottom and her keel came even with the outer planking, so that at a cost of 100,000 kr. (\$27,000). It is also reported nothing was presented for the ice to take hold of. that an Englishman has submitted to the Althing a The hopes were that if caught between opposing floes proposal for a telegraph cable between Iceland and she would be lifted up bodily, the ice sliding in under the Shetland Islands,

her sloping sides and bottom. She was very strongly built, being planked with double layers of oak 31/4 inches and 41/2 inches thick, sheathed again with ice planking varying from 81/4 inches to 61/4 thick. The ceiling was in alternate strakes 41/4 inches and 81/4 inches thick. The enormous mass of timber for so small a vessel, in conjunction with her shape, seemed enough to make her stand anything. The screw and rudder were arranged so that they could be raised into a well for protection if desired. The ship was 101 feet 6 inches long, displacing 800 tons at 15 feet 6 inches draught with 3 feet 3 inches freeboard. Her carrying capacity was put at 880 tons and she carried five years supply of provisions.

Her crew consisted of eleven men in addition to Dr. Nansen, and they departed prepared for an absence of three to five years. The ship was to coast along the northern shores of Europe until she reached the vicinity of the New Siberian Islands; here she was to strike north, depending largely on ocean currents to carry her along. The course would carry her past the North Cape and then approximately along the 70th and 80th circles of latitude until at or about the 150th parallel of longitude east from Greenwich, and just north of Bennett Island, the course would be changed to the north. Hence the explorer hoped to pass by the pole, to work down along the east coast of

> sand. In many ways it is the most interesting of the attempts yet made to reach the pole. The specially built ship, the personnel of those who manned her and the unselfishness of her commander gave an element of the romantic to the whole. The explorer is said to have had the smallest and least comfortable cabin in the ship.

> Nansen's previous work in the Arctic indicated his ability to use all the possible resources of the region for his work. He utilized skees or Norwegian snow-shoes in traversing the Greenland ice caps, and in his book on his Greenland expedition will be found a singularly interesting account of these aids to snow travel. It is to be hoped that his resourceful mind will prove equal to the task he has assigned himself. He departed on June 24, 1898, and the present day seems too soon for him to be heard from.

> As an interesting appendix, we print a table of the most northerly points attained by Arctic voyagers. The figures will be impressive in showing how slow the advance to the north is, and how little has been gained since the days of Henry Hudson. The table is taken from General A. W. Greely's work, "Hand-book of Arctic Discoveries."

#### An Opportunity for Braughtsmen,

The Municipal Civil Service Board, of this city, will soon hold examinations for the positions of computer and topographical draughtsman in the parks and annexed district. It has been difficult to get a sufficient number of candidates for either of these positions, and quite a number of vacancies exist in consequence. The salaries paid the computers range from \$900 to \$1,200 per annum. The salary of draughtsman is \$1,200. The board is anxious to receive applications at once, and will hold its examinations as soon as a sufficient number of applications have been received.

was a three masted schooner in rig, with engine and Blanks may be procured at the office of the Civil Service Board, Criminal Courts building.

> THE telephone, according to the Electrical Engineer, has got a footing in Iceland. It is said that an American is laying a line between Reykyavik and Akureyri,

#### RASTERN HEMISPHERE.

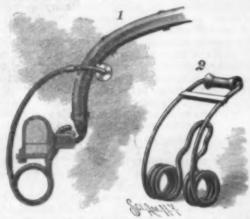
| Commander,   | Date.   | North Latitude.  | Longitude.   | Locality.  |
|--|---|--|--|--|
| William Barents Ryp and Heemakerck (Barents' third voyage). Henry Hudson. J. C. Phipps William Scoreaby. W. E. Parry Nordenskiold and Otter Weyprecht and Payer. | July 14, 1894<br>June 19, 1896<br>July 18, 1807<br>July 27, 1773<br>May 24, 1896<br>July 28, 1897<br>September 19, 1868<br>April 12, 1874 | 77° 90'<br>70° 46'<br>80° 23'<br>80° 48'<br>81° 80'<br>82° 42'<br>81° 42'<br>81° 05' | 62° E.<br>12° E.<br>10° E.<br>90° E.<br>19° E.<br>20° E.<br>18° E.<br>60° E. | Near C. Nassau, Nova Zembia. North Spitzbergen. Spitzbergen Sea. (highost by ship). Frans Josef Land (by Payer, highest land). |

#### WESTERN HERISPHERS.

| John Davis Henry Hudson. William Baffis E. A. Ingleffeld. E. K. Kane. C. F. Hall C. F. Hall G. S. Nares A. W. Greely | June 30, 1607<br>July 4, 1616<br>August 37, 1852<br>June 34, 1854<br>August 30, 1870<br>June 30, 1871<br>September 25, 1875 | 78° 19' 10° 10° 10' 80° 10' 80° 11' 80° 48' 80° 30' 80° 34' | 56° W. 20° W. 72° W. 74° W. 61° W. 61° W. 65° W. 65° W. 65° W. | West Greenland. Off East Greenland. Smith Sound. Smith Sound. Smith Sound. Cape Constitution, Greenland, by Morion. Frozen Sen. Greenland, by Sergeant Meyer. Grinnell Land, by Aldrich. Frozen Sea, by A. H. Markham. New land, north of Greenland, by Lock- wood and Brainard. |
|--|---|---|--|--|
|--|---|---|--|--|

#### AW ANTI-RATTLING THILL COUPLING.

The attachment for thill couplings or thill irons represented in the illustration is made principally of a single piece of spring wire, and is readily applied to pressure on the eye of the thill iron to prevent rattling, and has a rolling tension on the forward face of the thill iron by which the shafts and thills will be balanced when the horse is attached, and which is designed to hold the thills upright or nearly so when the animal is disengaged therefrom. The improvement has been patented by Thomas Price, Itasca, Texas. Fig. 1 shows the application of the device, Fig. 2 representing it detached. The side members, curved forwardly and upwardly from the coils, support a friction roller shaped to receive the forward face of the thill iron, the spring or tension of the wire practically clamping the friction roller, and the ends of the wires being bent inwardly to form a journal for the roller. The



PRICE'S THILL SUPPORT.

tongue projecting upward between the coils is adapted to be carried up between the eye of the thill iron and Or (b), leakage of water on to a portion of the party the ears of the clip, where its concave under face rests on a cushion, preferably of leather, which rests upon and extends partially around the upper or rear face of the eye of the thill iron. The concavity of the tongue near its lower end is adapted for engagement with the axle or with the ends of the clip plate, the coils being beneath the axle. The device, as will be seen, is very simple, and may be quickly and easily applied.

#### IMPROVED GAS AND GASOLINE ENGINE.

The development of the gas engine since the Centennial Exhibition of 1876 is not less remarkable than the development of the steam engine in its earlier days. Improvements in gas and gasoline engines have succeeded each other with great rapidity, until this type of motor seems to have almost reached perfection,

We give an engraving of an engine of recent design made by P. F. Olds & Son, of Lansing, Mich., which is refined in both principle and construction. While copt by a shock. the makers of this engine have adopted the four-cycle system, which has proved itself the most economical system of operation for gas engines, they have avoided all the complication of mechanism heretofore thought necessary for securing the valve motions, and have devised a new and very simple movement that accom- sumed. For with either it is probable that a single substances;" the voltage is 25 to 3, which is main-

plishes all that can be done by cams, lateral shafts and gearing, besides insuring the prompt opening and closing of the valves. This motion is secured by a plain eccentric on the main shaft, which reciprocates the alternating wheel operating the exhaust and compression valve. By throwing out the pawl which operates the alternating wheel, compression will be omitted and the engine can be turned to any point without the resistance of compression.

When gasoline is used as a source of power, the liquid is supplied to the engine from a tank loeated outside the building containing the engine, or, in case of small engines. the tank is located in the engine base, and by a simple de-

vice the gasoline is supplied to the engine as needed. Any surplus flows back to the tank.

The engine is arranged to use either an electric or hot tube igniter, the latter being constructed on an any axle and any thill. The device exerts sufficient improved principle. Everything connected with the engine is arranged with a view to perfect safety. A very sensitive governor is employed which maintains a close regulation. The engine is nicely balanced, has large valve openings, ample bearings, straight line connections, and embodies all the improvements suggested by years of use of gas engines of various kinds besides containing new features peculiar to itself,

The engine is made in two forms, horizontal and vertical, and is adapted to launches, which are also built by this firm.

#### Earthed Center Main.

In connection with possible dangers from the use of pressures of from 400 to 500 volts on the mains of electrical supply companies, I beg to hand you the following opinion from Mr. Musgrave Heaphy, who has recently discussed this matter with me. I need scarcely state that an opinion from this gentleman, who has such unrivaled advantages for estimating the dangers of electric power distribution, is worth serious atten-

It is commonly assumed in a three-wire system of supply, with center wire earthed, that it is impossible for there to be a difference of pressure on any premises wired on one side of the system greater than that between one of the outers and the middle wire. 'Mr. Heaphy points out that the full pressure may be brought into one house under certain conditions.

Assume two adjacent houses, the one connected to the positive and middle wire and the other to the middle wire and the negative; and let there be in the party wall: (a) an iron door frame, wall box or piece of shafting, etc., communicating between the two houses, insulated by dryness of the wall, by dry woodwork, or other means securing practical insulation. wall thus insulated.

Assume accidental connection between one of the outer mains, say through a defective flexible wire to one of the insulated pieces of metal, or to the damp is carried through a loose yoke and parallel with the portion of the wall. The leakage to earth will be probably too small to blow the fuses and so to disconnect the house.

Next assume an accidental leak on the other pole of the system in the adjacent house, say through the metal case of a switch or lampholder.

It is clear that, if the piece of insulated iron or damp wall be touched at the same time as the defective fitting, a shock due to the full pressure will be

These conditions are not likely to occur often, for two earths on opposite poles have to be made concurrently and in adjacent houses, yet the risk is increased

An obvious safeguard is to earth all isolated pieces of metal, but this does not get over the risk from walls which are damp locally. Iron barrel or concentric wiring, with the outer earthed, appear to be the zinc and one of carbon covered with boron, the electrosafest methods of wiring under the conditions as-

leak would blow one of the fuses, and thus call atten tion to the defect.

In fact, if the middle wire be earthed, all iron work in buildings should be effectively earthed also.-Albion T. Snell, in the Electrical Review.

#### TENSION DEVICE FOR CHECK ROW WIRES.

A device to facilitate the stretching of check row wires at a uniform tension, no matter how often the wire may be shifted, or whether it is carried longitudinally of or across the field, is represented in the accompanying illustration. It has been patented by George B. Austin, of Dundas, Minn. It consists of a tension hook, the hook end of which is in twin form, that the wire to be stretched may be passed between its members, if desired, in making the attachment, and on the flat shank of the hook is a scale in inches, at the outer end of which an elongated guide yoke is secured to the shank. A spring is coiled around the



AUSTIN'S CHECK ROW DEVICE.

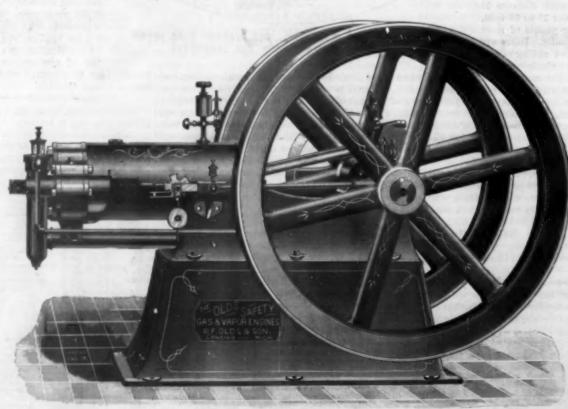
shank, one of its ends being secured thereto near the hook, while the wire of the spring at the opposite end scale, being also passed out and back through the fixed yoke, an eye being formed in the wire beyond the shank of the hook, and its inner end being secured to the loose yoke. The stake to which the guide wire of the check rower is usually attached is made to receive the eye of the device, one end of the wire to be stretched being attached to the book, and when the wire is placed under tension the loose yoke moves over the scale and indicates in inches the amount of slack in the wire taken up, enabling the operator, when the wire is to be again stretched, to take up the same amount, whereby the wire will always be kept under the same tension, insuring the rows being in proper alignment.

#### Boron Battery.

The Electrical Engineer of November 29 describes this new Austrian battery, which consists of a plate of lyte being a solution of "manganese salt and other

> tained for quite a long time; the cost of maintaining the battery is said to be one penny for a 10 hour run - but for what output is not stated. The novelty consists in covering the carbon plates with boron, which is done by immersing them at a high temperature in a bath of chloride or fluoride of boron, then in a solution of oxalate of platinum, after which they are heat ed to a red heat in an atmosphere of hydrogen. A plate so trented contains metallic boron in its pores.

A NEW industry in London is that of preserving eggs. The eggs have the shells removed, the white and yolk are then mixed together and the whole packed in hermetically sealed tins. . .



IMPROVED GAS AND GASOLINE ENGINE

our correspondents concerning the different types of tical lanterns for various uses, we publish herewith number of illustrations showing the construction of enterns adapted to different forms of gas, electric and the illuminator on the vertical posts. This arrange ... lamps.

The importance of the optical lantern as a means of illustrating lectures on travel, art, science, or, in fact, any subject that may brought before an audience, is now generally acknowledged, and educators have adopted it as an important factor in all branches of the light, it may be used in a room that is but partially teaching. The development of the mechanical structure darkened, and owing to the fact that the light may be most convenient, for producing dissolving of the lantern has kept pace with the increasing demands for an instrument of accurate construction and ready adjustment. A wide departure has been made, as will be seen in the accompanying illustrations, from the older form of apparatus.

The apparatus here illustrated is manufactured by

VARIOUS TYPES OF OPTICAL PROJECTION LANTERNS. S S, thus providing for a forward and back adjust-Owing to the variety and number of questions asked ment. The hoods connecting the various attachments and shutting in the light are held in position on the condensing lens support, O. Lateral and vertical adjustments are afforded by the method of supporting ment affords a ready and accurate means for the centering of the light in the optical axis of the lantern.

Fig. 3 shows an improved automatic arc lamp. This lamp is provided with all necessary adjustments for the control of the carbons. Owing to the intensity of emanates from approximately a point, it has optical advantages not found in other forms of artificial light. This lamp automatically maintains the are in the optical axis of the lenses, and is therefore to be recommended for scientific demonstrations.

ingly convenient form of light for small exhibitions. In the illustration the polished reflector is cut away in order to show the mantle, D.

Fig. 8 illustrates the 100 candle power incandescent electric attachment. These lamps are specially constructed with a small carbon spiral, and are provided with an adjustable reflector fitted with a sliding and swivel adjustment at A, which enables the most advantageous centering of the light in relation to the

These lanterns are constructed in double or triple form, mounted one above another or side by side, as effects. When it is desired to use this lantern for scientific demonstrations the slide support, J, the bellows, C, and the objective lens and its supports are removed and the sliding rods, D D, give place to an optical bench on which may be supported a great variety Fig. 4 shows an improved form of oil burner. This of chemical and physical apparatus. A polariscope, a J. B. Colt & Company, 115 Nassau Street, New York. is constructed on the student's lamp principle, and is microscope, and a spectroscope may be applied to this Fig. 1 shows the various adjustments of a new form provided with a central charget and a positive wick lantern. The self-focusing are lamp has been adapted

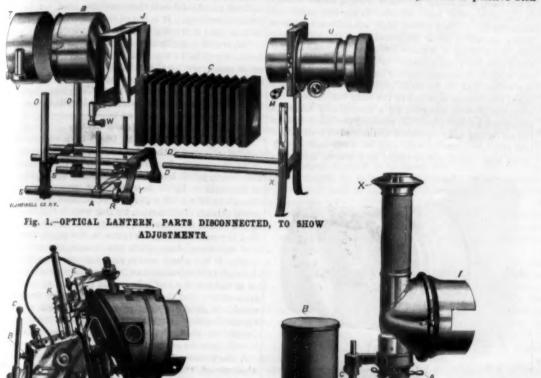
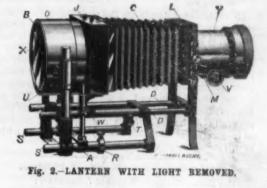


Fig. 3.-AUTOMATIC ARC LAMP. Fig. 4.-OIL BURNER.



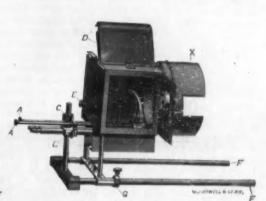


Fig. 5 .- OXYHYDROGEN BURNER.



Fig. 6.-HAND FEED ELECTRIC LAMP.

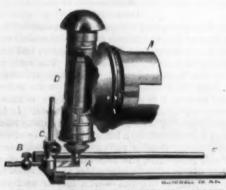


Fig. 7.-WELSBACH GAS BURNER APPLIED TO LANTERN.

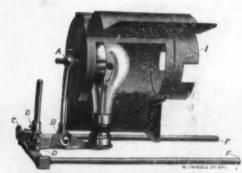


Fig. 8.-INCANDESCENT ELECTRIC LAMP APPLIED TO LANTERN.

of lantern called the Criterion. In this cut the various adjustment. This lamp gives unusually strong light, parts are disconnected in order to show more clearly its mechanical construction. It will be seen that all its parts are vertically adjustable, and that any of them may be removed without the use of tools; so that this lantern is perfectly adapted for physical, chemical, and optical demonstrations, as well as for the projection of pictures and diagrams.

Fig. 2 shows the apparatus and its various compolight or radiant. Of these six different forms are shown, any one of which may be used. This variety has been made possible by the perfection of three forms of electrie attachment, and the! adaptation of the Welsbach burner, with which the ordinary house gas is used, an improved form of oil lamp, and an oxyhydrogen attachment. In the construction of this apparatus the old form of light box or easing has given place to an entirely different construction, which consists of parallel rods. F F, with a cross piece on which is supported a vertical post, to which the various forms of radiant are attached. In each instance, the parallel slid-

entirely free from smoke and disagreeable odors

Fig. 5 illustrates a very perfect form of oxyhydrogen jet or burner, which is provided with mechanical screw rods, A A, for raising, lowering, and turning the lime and for controlling it at the proper distance from the tip of the burner. The metal bood is supported on vertical posts on the slide, O. This device enables the jet with its hood to be removed from the nent parts in their normal positions, excepting the lantern without disarranging their relative adjustments.

In Fig. 6 is shown a hand feed electric are lamp. Owing to the simplicity of construction of this apparatus, it can be sold at much lower price than the automatic form. In this case the carbons are fed by band, by turning the insulated knob, 3, at intervals of three or four minutes, as the carbons are consumed. This lamp is provided with an adjustment so that it may be used on either the direct or alternating circuits, in either case maintaining the arc in the axis of the lan-

Fig. 7 shows the adaptation of the Welsbach gas ing rods, FF, fit accurately the tubular bearings, burner to the Criterion lantern. This is an exceed-ground.

to various purposes, aside from lantern use, including theater stage lighting, photo-engraving, etc.

#### Calculus in the Kidney.

Bartholow says that borotartrate of potassium is the first remedy for calculus in the pelvis of the kidney. A weak solution must be used for a long time, a strong solution being detrimental. The calculus of the kidney is formed from uric acid, and the neutral phosphatic alkaline salts are the best solvents of uric acid; therefore, to promote its elimination they pear to be the best remedies to administer. The fruit acids are very useful, says the Buffalo Medical Journal; therefore abundance of fresh fruit would also be indicated for the relief and prevention of nephritic cal-

ONE of the novelties exhibited at the National Cycle Show, at Crystal Palace, London, was a canopy which protected the rider from sun or rain. This canopy is like the ordinary buggy top, and is steadied by means of a small wheel at the back which runs on the

#### Correspondence.

#### Carbon Monoxide in Gas Flames.

To the Editor of the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN:

I saw the statement made by a correspondent of one of your contemporaries that the products of combus tion of an ordinary gas flame used for light included carbon dioxide (CO2), and that of a Bunsen burner carbon monoxide (CO), a very poisonous gas, and said correspondent wanted some chemist to inform him as to the quantity of CO given out by Bunsen burners, as the latter were being extensively used at present for lighting in connection with incandescent mantle gas burners. My impression has been that the more perfeet the combustion the less luminous the flame, which would indicate that the Bunsen burner consumed gas more completely than an ordinary gas jet; so that if either gave of any CO, I should expect it to be the gas jet rather than the Bunsen burner. A little light on the subject from you will greatly oblige a reader.

FRANK SHLAUDEMAN. Decatur, Ill.

[Non-luminous flames are the most liable to produce carbon monoxide. The luminous flame, with proper burner, is the safer in this regard. If anything is done to cool a non-luminous flame, such as inserting a heavy wire gauze in it, the gas in question is very apt to be produced along with other products of incomplete combustion. But a proper Bunsen burner gives perfect combustion and is perfectly safe. You will always iknow if carbon monoxide is being produced, generally by the odor of the accompanying products of incomplete combustion and by the headache which it will soon produce.-ED.]

#### The Phenomenal Growth of Potatoes,

To the Editor of the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN:

My letter published in the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN of January 25 brought me in the first mail 85 letters of inquiry, and they have been arriving continually ever It looks as though every farmer in the United States reads your paper. It would be impossible for any one man to answer all these letters, some having written three times, but the main questions can all be answered in a few lines. If you will publish them, I will send a set of questions and answers for the benefit of your readers. There appears to be a great mystery surrounding the sprouting of potatoes in boxes and barrels without earth. C. E. FORD.

Rush, Texas.

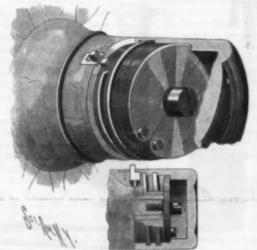
[We have arranged below the questions received by Mr. Ford and have appended the answers.]

1. Q. At what temperature do you keep your sprout house? A. Summer heat, or 90° to 90° F. 2 Q. Will a stove answer for heating the sprout house? A. Yes-3. Q. Do you put earth or anything in the barrel with the potatoes? A. No. 4 Q. Do you put water on the potatoes? Is extra moisture required in the sprout house? A. No. 5. Q. Do you cut the potatoes before putting them into the barrel, or do you put them in whole? A. Put them in whole, planting, do you separate the young potatoes from the old mother potatoes? A. No; plant all together. 7. Q. Are not many of the small potatoes broken off so that they will not grow? A. About one-tenth of used to separate those that are to be planted. A wooden paddle injures the roots and potatoes less than an iron trowel. 8. Q. What is a "balk"? A. A ridge ridge with inclined sides by leaning the plow to the left. The "balk" gives more surface for the expansion and growth of the young potatoes. 9. Q. What is meant by "water furrow"? A. A bead is made by making two or more furrows together. The lowest ground between the beads is a "water furrow," 10. Q. How do you prepare your liquid manure? A. I have a large number of cattle which I keep in a pen every night, and the manure gets very deep, and when it rains the water runs from the pen to the potatoes; and if it does not rain when I want to irrigate my potatoes, I run the water into the cattle pen first and drive the cattle round and round, stirring up the manure, which I then run into the potatoes, 11. Q. What kind of fertilizer do you use and how much? A. I use cotton seed, covering the ground 4 to 6 inches deep for one crop. For the next crop I use green cow manure, covering the ground 6 to 10 inches deep. It in England, France (where it was awarded a medal at is impossible to get the ground too rich. My soil is the Bordeaux Exposition in 1895), Austria, Norway andy and about 8 feet in depth before the clay is and Sweden, Russia and other European countries. reached. 12 Q. What kind of seed would you recommend for growing potatoes by your method? A. has given good results. Any kind that grows best in your locality. 18. Q. Do you irrigate, and how often? A. Yes; continuously. oils. The compound is very thinly applied on the If the potatoes become dry, they will cease to grow. metal, which should be clean and dry. The volatile 14. Q. Can I obtain potato seed from you? A. I have oils evaporate after application to the metal, and there no potatoes to sell. 15. Q. Can I use your system in remains a thin film or skin which tightly adheres to New England and Canada? A. Yes. 16. Q. Do I the metal and forms the coating, which affords comunderstand that a crop of potatoes can be grown plete and permanent protection and prevents rust and tricity has been successfully employed by him in checkevery 4 or 6 weeks? A. In Texas, yes. The potato corrosion. grower can answer this question for his own locality by observing how long it takes for a potato to grow from it is absolutely neutral, containing no acid, and it does blood and gave relief where the usual remedies were the size of a small marble to a size suitable for eating not take up any acid from the air or water; an arti- without effect.

until they attain the size of marbles; then they have all the roots and begin growing immediately when planted. It is probable that in Canada and New England two crops could be grown without trouble. 17. Why do you plant your hills across the rows and not lengthwise? A. To secure an even distribution of has the advantage of spreading and thereby covering the potatoes

#### SECURING VEHICLE WHEELS TO AXLES.

A device which can be operated without the use of tools, to attach or remove the wheel, locking the hub so securely to the axle that it cannot be accidentally removed, is shown in the accompanying illustration, one view showing the improvement applied, with a part of the cap broken away, while the small figure is a sectional view. The improvement has been patented by William F. McQuivey, of Seattle, Washington. The hub has an end plate which fits around the end of the axle, a flange of the end plate overlapping the face of the hub, and being provided with a coarse thread to engage a screw cap. Pivoted to the end plate are semicircular locking plates, with semicircular rece fitting around a serew projected from the end of the axle, there being a washer between the head of this screw and the locking plates. Fitting snugly over the end of the hub and against the locking plates is a screw cap which has at its inner edge a recess engaging a catch movable in and out in the hub, the catch being normally pushed outward by a spring, and having a projecting thumb piece. On pushing the catch inward the screw cap may be unscrewed from the hub. With this improvement the axle may be more easily lubricated than where the ordinary nut is used, and with-



McQUIVEY'S DEVICE FOR SECURING VEHICLE WHEELS

out soiling the hands or the clothing, and the device adds to the neatness and good appearance of the wheel.

#### Mannocitin.

The rust-preventing compound "mannocitin" is the invention of Edmund Muller & Mann (chemical works) them are broken off. A wooden paddle or trowel is of Charlottenburg, near Berlin, Germany, and is manufactured exclusively by that firm. The article was put on the market in Germany in January, 1802, and has since been adopted by German state railways, of land left unplowed between furrows. It is left in a by the leading iron and steel works, by engine and machine builders, tool manufacturers, etc. It is extensively used by all trades making and using machinery, as is evidenced by a large number of trustworthy testimonials. Besides railways, iron, steel, machine, and tool companies, the following are users of mannocitin, viz, steamship companies, shipbuilders, mines and smelting works, gun works, bicycle and sewing machine factories, flour mills, gas and water works, departments of public works, stove works, glass works (for use on iron moulds), breweries, textile manufactories, paper and pulp mills, beet sugar refineries, watch makers, metal workers, and machinists. These trades are enumerated to show that the article is of interest to all industries manufacturing, dealing in, or using machinery or metal goods of any description.

In Germany, where the manufacturers first introduced their compound, it is largely used, as it is also If the nut pinches tightly enough, and if the screw Wherever it has been properly employed, mannocitin

This compound is composed of greases and volatile

The advantages claimed for mannocitin are: That

or marketing. I grow the potatoes in the sprout house cle once coated with mannocitin is protected as long as the mannocitin coating is allowed to remain on; it consequently protects the metal for years. The mannocitin coating forms a protection against salt air, dampness, fresh water, salt water, perspiration and fumes of muriatic acid and ammonia. This compound a very large surface. With one gallon, a surface of over eleven hundred square feet can be protected.

It may be easily applied with a rag and is always ready for use; it does not rub off in handling, and is not absorbed by dust or by paper wrappers (this is of great advantage in the case of small tools). It is quickly removed with turpentine or benzine, and as it is removed simply with a rag saturated in one of these liquids, scratching the metal is avoided, and the original polish of the metal is preserved. It can, therefore, be used on the most delicate metal surfaces, such as engravers' steel plates. As the mannocitin coating is transparent it does not discolor the metal or injure or spoil its appearance. Mannocitin has a very high melting point, and can therefore be used on boilers without melting. It is not of the nature of a paint or lacquer, and it is not a petroleum product.

The article is applicable to the smallest and finest tools, as well as to the largest machinery. It is put up in small cans for the individual user and in larger cans and barrels for a large manufacturer.

Mr. Otto Goetze, of New York City, has charge of

the business relating to mannocitin in this country.

#### Nuts on Wagon Axles.

Every now and then one hears of a wagon wheel coming off through the loss of a nut, and an accident of this sort is apt to be attended with further injury to the vehicle or its load. If the latter is heavy, the end of the axle is liable to strike the ground abruptly enough to break off a portion, or at least to spoil the screw thread. This thread, by the way, is righthanded at one end of the axle and lefthanded at the other, so that the nut in going on turns in the same direction that the wheel does when the wagon is moving forward. If the wheel exerts any influence on the nut through friction, therefore, its tendency usually would be to tighten the nut. It would only be in backing, apparently, that the nut could be loosened from that cause. It is surprising, perhaps, that such a thing should happen at all, but it does, and a good many people, farmers and blacksmiths, have wondered how it could best be prevented.

A generation or two ago some carriage makers put a pin through the nut and the axle top. This of course would serve well enough for a while, but after the nut had been removed several times, in order to allow the axle to be greased, the thread would be worn a trifle. Hence, if the nut were tightened up properly with a wrench, the hole would not be in the right place for the pin. One of the Tribune's subscribers recommends a slight improvement on that plan. He fixes a coil spring in the aperture in the nut into which the pin is inserted, and the spring tends to thrust the pin into place when the nut is on. But the improved plan does not seem to meet the objection just mentioned.

Another scheme, which has been tried with great success on fine carriages for many years, is to have two nuts, one going on after the other, and each screwing in a different direction. A pin ties the two together, and the double nut is thus perfectly locked. The patent on this idea ran out long ago, and there are several makers of this style of axle. But one must pay an extra price for it. This is the most efficient plan in use, probably; but it has been suggested that nuts, not only on axles, but also on the bolts through the ends of the springs, might be kept in place by using spring washers, such as are now employed in certain parts of a rolley car gear, and as nut locks for railway track bolts. Again, a wonderful grip is secured in one of the track bolts lately introduced by cutting the thread in a peculiar way. The same scheme ought to work on a wagon axle.

However, there are plenty of country wagons and city trucks, some of which are used in hauling enormous loads over rough highways, which are provided with no special means of securing the nuts, and yet which never lose one. The secret of this, probably, is that the nuts are well fitted, and are closely watched. the nut is worn by long service, and goes on too easily, there is always a certain amount of risk, especially if a man is careless in greasing the wheels. And such a man, too, will probably neglect to examine the nuts occasionally and try to tighten them with a wrench. New York Tribune.

#### Electricity in Dentistry.

Dr. M. G. Jenison, of Minneapolis, reports that elecing hemorrhage from the extraction of teeth. The current, he states, caused instant coagulation of the THE BUFFINGTON-CROZIER DISAPPEARING BARBETTE forged steel, and passes through the lower ends of the of 8 candle power each, for domestic purposes. The CARRIAGE FOR THE EIGHT INCH B. L. RIFLE.

The views which we herewith present of the standard disappearing gun mount for coast defense batteries will possess especial interest at the present time. Our recent diplomatic deadlock with a firstclass naval power has again raised the question of adequate seacoast defense; and has riveted the public attention upon it more strongly than ever before. That this nation has a large portion of its wealth located along its 3,000 miles of seaboard is no doubt generally understood, and also that in the event of naval attack by a hostile power it is practically defense less; but just how vast the total value of this property is, and just how utterly exposed to the possibility of speedy destruction, the great mass of the people at large, and especially those of the inland States, have never fully realized.

Elaborate plans of defense have been drawn up and are only awaiting the sanction of Congress for their execution. At the present writing the bill reported by the Senate Committee on Fortifications proposes an appropriation of \$80,000,000, of which \$10,000,000 should be available during the rest of this fiscal year and the whole of the next one, and \$10,000,000 a year should be available thereafter for seven years. The report further says: "It has been estimated that in the cities of New York, Brooklyn, and Jersey City alone there is property of the value of \$4 000,000,000 which a hostile fleet, lying in the upper bay of New York, would have within reach of its guns. Not one-tenth of the necessary defenses has yet been provided for that port, although its harbor is at present better defended than any other in the United States."

We have a navy which has received the favorable criticism of every foreign power, and it is rapidly approaching the front rank. In building up a system of coast fortifications we shall be providing the necessary counterpart of an effective navy. The committee says that its very existence would be imperiled in case of war with any great power, without the support which would be afforded it by land defenses.

The Buffington-Crozier disappearing carriage, which will be the standard type for coast fortifications, is shown in the loading position, where it is entirely below the parapet of the barbette; also in the elevated posi-

The carriage is of the front pintle form, and consists of the following principal parts, viz.: The levers, the top carriage, the cheek plates or chassis, the elevating gear, the racer, the live rollers, the base ring, the transoms, the traverse wheels, the traverse circle, the traversing gear, and the projectile crane.

The trunnions of the gun rest in bearings bushed with bronze, on the upper end of the levers. The levers are made of cast steel, and are pivoted near their middle points upon an axle of forged steel. The axle rests in bearings bushed with bronze in the top carriage, which is formed with the two hydraulic cylinders in one piece of gun iron. In each cylinder are two throttling bars of steel, which pass through notches in the piston and serve to regulate the size of the orifices for the flow of the liquid past the pistons, being of variable cross section. The hydraulic cylinders are connected by a pipe at their forward ends to equalize the pressure in them during recoil.

The piston rods with the pistons formed on them are made of forged steel, and are fastened by means of nuts to projections on the front end of the chassis They are produced through the rear cylinder heads.

The top carriage rests upon rollers of forged steel, axles of the rollers are of forged steel, and the rollers are bushed with bronze where the axles pass through them. The cheek plates are made of cast steel, and are united by three transoms, also of cast steel, the rear one being for the traverse wheels. The cheek plates are bolted at their forward ends to the racer, and have guides bolted to them for the elevating rack. Their upper surfaces have a slope of 2° to the front to facilitate the return of the piece to battery, and to reduce the preponderance of the counterweight.

The elevating rods are of forged steel, the journal bearings, at their upper and lower ends, being bushed with bronze. The lower ends of the rods are attached the level of the parapet. Gun for gun, such a to elevating racks of bronze. The elevating handwheels are of wrought iron and are mounted on a through shaft, upon which are pinions of bronze gear ing into spur wheels of cast steel. On the shaft with lutely steady platform. 4. Absolute determination of these are pinions of bronze, gearing into the elevating racks.

ction of the system in recoiling is such that, no matter what elevation the gun may have when fired, rior protection. it will have practically the same inclination to the horizontal-about 7°-in loading position.

The racer is of east steel, and the base ring of gun iron. Their inner parts form a pivot or pintle, which lighting in Shanghai, says: "A couple of years ago has a spiral groove cut in one of its surfaces to facilitate lubrication. The base ring is fastened to the by electricity, for which 60 are lamps were quite suffiplatform with sixteen 1% inch holding-down bolts. cient, and there was not a single incandescent lamp in The rollers are conical and of forged steel.

pounds. It is suspended by two rods from a shaft some 15 miles of streets, and there are about 43 miles joining the lower ends of the levers. This shaft is of of line wire laid, in addition to 6,100 incandescent lamps

levers into two clips forming a crosshead, and the pinned to the clips, with which it forms the crosshead. The crosshead clips are of cast steel and lined on their bearing surfaces with bronze strips. They are given additional support, when in the lowest position, against a projection of the chassis.

The crosshead guides are formed on the inner sides of the chassis. A vertical ratchet is made on one face of each crosshead clip to be caught by a pawl on the chassis and thus to hold up the counterweight. This pawl is mounted upon a short crank actuated by a long lever at the side of the carriage, and the arrangement is used for lowering the piece, should the recoil not be sufficient.

The rear traverse wheels and their transom are of cast steel, and the axes of the wheels rest on roller bearings.

The traversing chain lies around the traverse circle and is fastened to the parapet. It is provided with an arrangement for taking up the slack. The circle is of gun iron, and is cast in segments and fastened to the platform by 11/2 inch holding-down bolts.

The action of the carriage is as follows: Upon firing the piece the central pivot of the levers moves horizontally to the rear, carrying the top carriage with it. The lower end moves vertically upward, being constrained by the crosshead guides. The gun moves downward and to the rear in the arc of an el-The energy of recoil is absorbed partly by raising the counterweight and partly by the resistance of the hydraulic cylinders. After loading, the pawls are tripped and the greater moment of the counterweight enables it to raise the piece into battery. The return to battery is softened by hydraulic counter-recoil buffers in the cylinders, forming a sort of dashpot.

The piece is havied down in the loading position by hand for drill and cleaning by a windlass arrangement, the rope leading through sheaves on the levers and chassis

Three fulcrum pins are inserted in each chassis near the forward end of the top carriage to serve as points of support for pinching levers held vertically, and engaging in ratchets bolted to the under sides of the top carriage clips, for heaving the top carriage forward in case it should not return to the firing position. A spring prevents the loading crane from swinging to a position under the breech of the gun, where it might be struck by the latter upon recoil.

This carriage is capable of great rapidity of fire. Ten shots from an 8 inch gun have been fired from it in twelve minutes and twenty-one seconds. In the loading position the gun is completely covered from a shot arriving at an angle of 7 degrees. The field of fire is 127 degrees, and the pointing of the gun can be varied from 12 degrees elevation to 5 degrees depression.

The project for the defense of New York harbor contemplates for the present, among other guns, fifteen 10 inch and nine 8 inch guns on disappearing carriages. Probably ten 12 inch guns on the same carriages will

The exact distribution of these guns at the various strategic points in the harbor, for obvious reasons, is not disclosed to the public. An attacking fleet would be practically at the mercy of such a battery of disappearing guns. At the outset it would be ignorant of the location of the fort; and the use of smokeless powder would render the detection of the guns, which are placed in recesses in the cheek plates. The during the few seconds that they showed above the parapet, a difficult marter. The only possible chance to place a shell inside the fort would be by making use of high angle fire; and this is impracticable in the modern war ship as at present constructed, for two reasons: first, that the existing gun carriages will not allow the breech to be sufficiently depressed to admit of such fire; and, secondly, that the existing decks are not strong enough to withstand the heavy vertical strain of the recoil. The aiming of the gun is all done under shelter. By means of a "range finder' and the "converter board" the gunner can lay the piece with perfect accuracy while it is yet below battery has an enormous advantage over the floating fortress, for it would have in its favor: 1. Invisibility. 2. Absolute protection from gun fire. 3. Absothe range and bearing of the enemy. To this must be added the moral effect upon the courage and enresulting from their supe-

### Electrical Progress in China.

The China Gazette, speaking of the growth of electric there were only about seven miles of streets lighted or around Shanghai. Now the electrical department The counterweight is of lead, and weighs 82,000 of the Municipal Council runs 140 are lamps, lighting

customers for incandescent lighting have increased holes in the levers being bushed with bronze. It is from 1 to 55 in number since the Council took charge of the department."

#### Rubber Shoes Sixty Years Ago,\*

To make a satisfactory purchase of a pair of rubber hoes, sixty or more years ago, was an undertaking r quiring the accredited keenness of a "Philadelphia wyer.

Boston, Mass., was then headquarters of the rubber trade, the largest importers being found there, where, besides supplying the regular trade, the commission merchants held rubber auctions at stated seasons.

Notices sent abroad secured a full attendance of boot and shoe dealers from New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore and all around, for "runners" were not thought of in those days of slow coaches.

Most of the rubber, and the best, came then, as now, from Para, South America, or along the Amazon River where natives procured it by tapping the trees. Clay and wooden lasts of various sizes were dipped in the cream-like liquid, the coating being dried by a dense smoke exactly as is done to-day.

Whon the several dippings were over, the shoes were stamped on the toes in fancy designs, more or less elaborate, taken off the lasts and stuffed full of rice hulls and hay; the tops were then sewed together with twine, or coarse thread.

Two of about the same size were tied together, and these illassorted pairs were packed in wooden boxes of all sizes and shapes, mostly sugar boxes, and shipped to foreign ports.

A boot and shoe dealer receiving a box would immediately consign it to the cellar of his store, where, on being opened, the stitches would be cut, the hulls and grass emptied out, together with a few scorpions and other live stock such as frequently took passage in the

The shoes were then turned wrong side out and after a thorough washing inside and out to free them of all adhering clay and dirt, were left to dry,

Then followed the tedious process of trimming and shaping them. Each shoe was turned over a wooden last-the one that seemed to be about the right size. If it was not sufficiently large, another would take its place. If too large, the shoe was heated and by extra exertion was often made to work down to the required capacity. Then with sharp scissors the edge was neatly trimmed and after being sponged with Japan blacking, the shoe was ready for sale. Only about enough for one or two days' sales were made ready at one time, the boys working evenings preparing them.

A customer desiring to purchase a pair of No. 4's was shown a pair that were stretched over that size of They may have had originally, the one a round toe, the other a pointed toe; one may have had a thin, the other a thick top-but so long as they could be made to cover a certain last that fixed the size. If one of them shrunk on being removed from the last, it was heated and put on again, and possibly heated a trifle before trying it over a customer's boot. It was a common occurrence to have a customer return with a shoe, or a pair of them, that drew the feet so badly they proved worthless to him or her. If the shoes had been worn, they were generally taken back in exchange for a less expensive pair, and on being heated some, the indentations were easily worked out, so the pair was just as good as new.

Repairing and resoling rubbers was a very nice operation, requiring great skill and eleverness. The shoe was again put on a last, when the sole or part to be mended was shaved with a sharp knife until it was all fresh and adhesive, and then a similarly prepared piece of rubber was put over it, the fresh surfaces pounded together and then trimmed neatly around. The shoes being soft and easily injured, had to be frequently mended.

They tore readily; stones and sticks penetrated the soles, heat softened them, cold stiffened them, and the sun discolored them; but notwithstanding all that, every woman and child, and many a man, was obliged to wear them through the muddy, sloshy, and snowy seasons: so the sales were proportionally great.

Rubber overshoes sold at wholesale from 25 cents a pair upward, retailing from 50 cents to \$1.25 a pair, according to their evenness of texture, their shapeliness and the elaborateness of their stamping; for the latter was a point of beauty not to be overlooked.

The dealer himself could not be sure of his goods and the purchaser could only be guided by the dealer, as he or she knew nothing of the extra stretchings, or of the mysteries of the trade, usually carried on below stairs by the apprentices, or boys, who were early taught to stretch their consciences with their goods.

Here and there may occasionally be found a men whose hand even now bears the marks of trimmings done on "gums" during the days of his youth, but there are comparatively few people living who remember the old time rubber shoes, with their stamped toes-which were considered a valuable improvement over wool socks and Indian moccasins.

<sup>\*</sup> By C. A. Lynde, in the Christmas Boot and Shoe Bocorder.

Slides Without Mat Covers or Binding.

Rev. W. M. H. Young, Ph.D., says: Of course, no one objects to elegantly mounted slides; but there are hundreds of clerical and other lanternists, like myself, who cannot afford all they would like. Those of us who exhibit weekly to the same people year by year have to prepare numberless new slides, many of which are to be used but once only. To mount them in regulation style, with cover glass, mat, binding strips and printed titles, would be a waste of time and money under the circumstances. Any yet we do not wish our views to present a slovenly appearance on the screen,

I prepare my negatives so that the result upon the screen is the same as the best mounted slide. The process consists in cutting off the film of the negative with a very keen chisel, leaving that portion of the picture that would usually be shown through a mat.

Draw upon the film of the negative with a pencil the exact size and shape you wish the "mat opening" to be. Of course, some sort of a guide must be used for the corner of the chisel, and keep at it until the film is cut entirely away outside that part of the view to be copied upon the transparency. The clear glass thus exposed will make a dense border around the picture upon the transparency, which will take the place of any mat. This method works equally well for contact or camera transparencies.

If irregular designs are desired instead of the ordinary rectangular mat openings, it is easy to make them and highly artistic too-by holding the chisel at an angle while cutting the outline. In this way the film is pared of beveled, giving a peculiar gradation of tone to a scalloped design.—The Optical Magic Lantern Journal.

#### THE ECCENTRICITIES OF A RAILROAD COLLISION.

We have been favored by Messrs. Clayton A. Smith and Dell Vaughn, of Waverly, New, York, with a photograph of what the local railroad fraternity describe as one of the most curious wrecks in the history of railroading. It occurred in the Towarda station yard of the Barclay Railroad, where three cars, which had been left standing on the main track, were run into by a regular train under full steam. The car next the engine, which is usually in such a case smashed into the proverbial kindling wood, was lifted up and forced over onto the top of the locomotive. With the exception of the injury done to the smoke box and stack, and to the roof of the cab, the locomotive was not damaged. It remained on the track, and was able to carry its strange burden into the village of Waverly, where the photograph was taken. Mr. Smith writes that the local railroad men say that the cause of the car taking this position was that the swing bumpers on the engine, which were down at the time of the collision, were thrown upward, and lifted the front end of the

We think it is probable that the drawbar and timbers, which can be seen embedded in the front end of the smoke box, contributed to the result by pivoting against the boiler tube plate, and lifting the car still further, as they were torn from their fastenings.

That this Eric box car should have kept its shape so

well under such rough handling speaks volumes for the excellence of the material and workmanship.

#### PRINTS OF SCARS.

BY PRANCIS GALTON, IN NATUR

The accompanying print is sent with a twofold object. First, for its intrinsic interest in showing how thoroughly and definitely a grafted slice of skin and flesh has established itself under its new conditions, retaining its original characteristics unchanged during thirty years. Secondly, because of its probable interest to surgeons in illustrating the ease and complete-



ENLARGED PRINT OF A MISPLACED GRAFT OF FLESH ON A THUMB, THIRTY YEARS AFTER IT WAS MADE.

ness with which a record can be kept of the process and results of the cicatrization of wounds

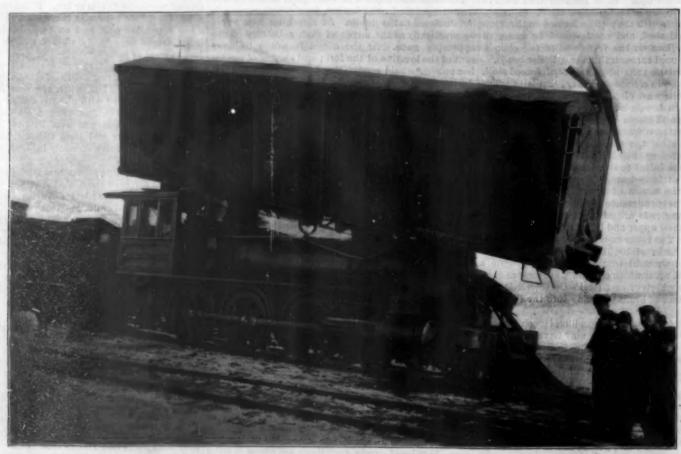
Prints are more clear, more cheap, and more trustworthy than photographs. They are not distorted through perspective, nor blurred owing to differences of focus; they can be taken in any light, and their scale is absolutely correct. They are made by rolling the scarred part on a porcelain pallet or metal slab, that has been covered evenly and very thinly with printer's ink; or, conversely, the pallet and paper are rolled upon the sear. As many duplicate prints can be taken as desired. I have written at so much length about these and alternative methods of printing in my book, "Finger Prints," and elsewhere, that I need say no more about them now. The print sent herewith is a photographic enlargement, being more suitable for rough process printing than the somewhat minute originals; but one of these is also inclosed. The history of the graft is as follows: J. R. H., who is a solicitor in large practice, when he was twenty-five years old, slice a piece clean off the thumb of his left hand. He was cutting cardboard with a sharp knife guided by a rule, upon which the thumb pressed and which it slightly overlapped. The piece that was cut off fell on the table; it was at once picked up, clapped upon the wound, and the thumb was tightly bandaged. After a few days reunion had taken place, and the wound was healed. It then proved that the tomed weight of his regular instruments of steel.

graft had not been replaced in its original position, but crossways to it, as seen by the papillary ridges in the accompanying print, taken in 1895, thirty years after the accident.

Art Pottery.

Mr. Holman Hunt, in the course of a paper on the future of the "Della Robbia" and artistically decorative pottery work, given at a recent reception at the Della Robbia Pottery Works, Birkenhead, England, called attention to certain experience which the history of ornamental design had established as an irrevocable and eternal fact. He went on to say: Art schools are producing artists who are not artists by nature, and who can never do anything but create confusion as painters of pictures or sculptors of human and animal form. It is important to dwell upon this truth in considering the needs of the pottery work whose fate we have to decide at this juncture. It was founded to redirect art energy toward industrial forms of daily need and use. I cannot pretend to express opinions about the very important financial questions, and these are most important in my eyes, because I don't like charitable feelings toward art. It must be recognized to be worth the money it costs. Art must be self-supporting. I will, however, express my opinion that the aim of this enterprise from the beginning was to bring back vitality to domestic art. We cannot review the past without recognizing that no art grows in a day. We in modern England are too impatient. We sustain a class of active writers ever on the watch to find or to imagine flaws in sincere attempts of the true artist, whatever his department may be. My comment upon this tendency is to say that I could find numberless faults in the Madonna de San Sisto, in Raffaele's Cartoons, in Michael Angelo's Sistine Chapel, in Tintorrello's Crucifixion, while in a Murillo picture of the Holy Family in our National Gallery I could find no fault. There are many other great attempts equally without flaw, but the first set named are the godlike works of the heroes of art, the second set are the products of the measured rule and the paint pot. Well, perhaps the work done by the pottery works may be open to criticism. For the time of its attempt to get its feet, some crudity and awkwardness in its struggles should be a welcome sign of life. It does artistically show signs of vigor and health. It must be business men alone who can start it in life. Palissy ware was in the same straits in its early days. You all know the story of the inventor begging his wife's wedding ring to put into the crucible. If help can be gained and this industry can be saved and perfected, it will be an aid not to itself alone, it will shame painting and sculpture out of mere mockery of antiquated art and out of the mummy-like representation, more or less disastrous or impudent, of the outside skin of the discolored corpse of nature.

ALUMINUM has not proved to be of very much value for surgical instruments, as it is deficient in elasticity and will stay bent. The instruments are also so light that the surgeon actually feels the want of the accus-

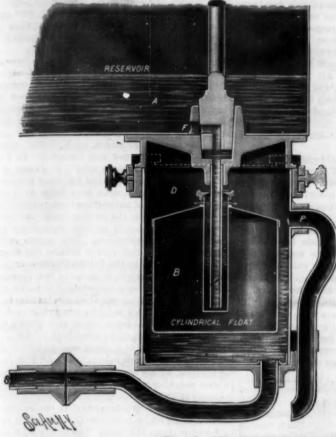


CURIOUS RAILROAD WRECK AT TOWANDA PA

#### INACCESSIBLE MARITIME LIGHTS. BY ELMER LAURENCE CORTHELL, C.B., D.SC.

The most unique system of electric lights to guide

of navigating these channels on a very dark night cable of large size in two nearly parallel lengths from without some adequate system of lights in the chan- Sandy Hook point to the channel; the new method, nelway. The direct range light on shore is 13 miles one small cable only. The size of the direct current revigation is that in use at the entrance to New York distant. It was generally necessary for steamers to cables was 1% inches, that of the new single cable 100 per steamers to cables was 1% inches, that of the new single cable 100 per steamers to cables was 1% inches, that of the new single cable 100 per steamers to cables was 1% inches, that of the new single cable 100 per steamers to cables was 1% inches, that of the new single cable 100 per steamers to cables was 1% inches, that of the new single cable 100 per steamers to cables was 1% inches, that of the new single cable 100 per steamers to cables was 1% inches, that of the new single cable 100 per steamers to cables was 100 per steamers to cables 100 per steamers 100 per ste Harbor. In order that the importance of the system lie to outside for daylight before entering the harbor. of an inch. The original system provided six lights,



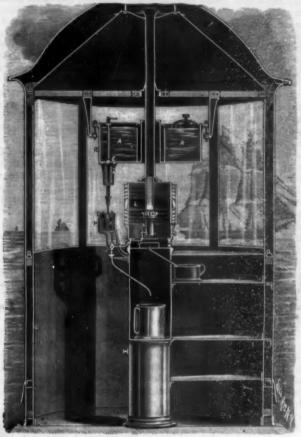


Fig. 3.-OIL RESERVOIR AND REGULATOR-FISH OIL LANTERN.

and its necessity may be appreciated, a general map of | The entrance was therefore practically closed at night | the new system ten lights; by the former the channel more detailed information.

all of the coast steamers and sea going vessels of After studying several methods, a direct current sys- Sandy Hook and above mentioned. Figs. 1 and 2 will

New York Harbor (Fig. 1) is given and referred to for to deep draught vessels. It was particularly necessary to light Gedney's Channel, the main channel being New York Harbor has two communications with quite plainly marked by a sufficient number of range the ocean, one by way of Long Island through the lights on the shore, and then, too, the channel is East River and Hell Gate and the other through the wider. It became still more important to light Ged-Narrows, between Staten Island and Long Island. The ney's Channel from the fact that the government had latter is the only one now practicable for sea-going expended large sums of money in dredging it to secure vessels of the larger class, and therefore is of vast im- a depth of 30 feet through it at mean low water, with portance to the commerce of the metropolis. There a width of 1,000 feet. It became therefore proper to are two principal channels at the Narrows, as shown secure the largest possible results to navigation. The on Fig. 1; in fact, there are several channels across the great distance of the channel from the shore made it miles, and further study and experiment, led to the entrance bar, used according to their depth. Nearly necessary to adopt some system of floating lights,

was lighted 4,000 linear feet, by the new system 8,000 linear feet.

As early as 1890 the great electrical and other advantages of the alternating current system of operating incandescent lights on long circuits led to experiments of testing it for lighted buoy systems. These experiments showed that the proposed method would be more economical and altogether more satisfactory. The experience gained at Chicago with a cable laid in the water from the Exposition to the city, about 7 very satisfactory method only recently installed at



Fig. 2.-ELECTRIC LIGHT BUOYS IN NEW YORK HARBOR.

tortuous Gedney's and main channels, which constilights being on the night of November 7. tute the only entrance to New York Haroor by the great ocean liners and deep draught ocean freighters. An inspection of Fig. 1 will show the impracticability rents; the original system required a three-conductor length of the cable used is about 6% statute miles, with

as these are by far more direct than by the extremely upon and installed in 1888, the first exhibition of the juniper wood 50 feet long, held in place by mushroom

was used, and in the improved system alternating cur- power of improved design, with 5 inch globes. The

inoderate draught use the South and Swash channels, tem of electrically lighted spar buoys was determined show clearly the new system. The spar buoys are anchors weighing 4,000 pounds. The lamps, which In this original system the direct current method are attached to the top of the buoys, are 100 candle the additional length of nearly 2 miles to the south-

We come now to perhaps the most fully developed been highly perfected. Some very ingenious methods have been devised to overcome what will at once be reen to be serious obstacles, particularly the uneven burning of a wick and its early wasting away by being constantly lighted. It is well known that the chemical action upon a wick causes the light after a while to go out, but if the same charred wick be raised again it permanency to the lights, it is necessary to use a wick already charred and to regulate its height in some way so as to have a uniformly steady flame for perhaps several weeks without attention. It was found necessary to deposit upon the wick a layer of tar by a peculiar method of incrusting the wick. The supply of oil is in a reservoir, the capacity of which is sufficient to keep the light burning during the entire time it may possibly be inaccesible. The decrease of pressure by the lowering of the oil in the reservoir is provided the American warship Tuscarora's record off the northfor by a very ingenious contrivance. It consists simply of interposing between the reservoir and the burner a supply regulator that serves to maintain a constant pressure of oil at the lamp. A section of this apparatus is shown on Fig. 8, in which 8 is the supply pipe to the lamp, A the reservoir, which may perhaps hold 100 in which B rises and falls, E is a gage and P a waste pipe. Without further description, it will be seen that 122° in the shade. There were many cases of sunthe supply of oil to the box. D, is maintained at a fixed point, and the supply is renewed from the reservoir as the oil is consumed at the lamp, for the opening at F is regulated by the float and the latter by the supply in the box, B, and this is drawn upon by the supply tube, S, as the lamp burns. The supply, therefore, is made automatically, constantly and economically. The contrivance works with great sensitiveness and with entire satisfaction. The method is used at several points in France.

In order to give a more detailed idea of the method, a vertical section and horizontal plan of the light used at Morées is given, see Fig. 4. Some details should be stated. The lantern, with a diameter of 51/4 feet, supports the oil reservoir, R; the lamp, L, rests on a central column and supports the supply tube. A little railway is provided on which the lamp can be moved to one side for cleaning, etc. Provision is made for thorough ventilation by admitting air below, which passes up through the entire apparatus and out at the top, so regulated that it prevents the formations of mista and frosts or any other conditions that would obstruct the light or in any way affect it. The cost of the installation, with the necessary dupli-cate parts, is about \$15,000. The apparatus established at Cette is similar to this.

Official information has been received through some recent correspondence in reference to the development of this system of mineral oil by applying an ingenious mechanism to make the lights revolve and flash,

The French lighthouse service has succeeded, by means of electricity generated from batteries, in maintaining a rotary motion of a revolving apparatus for at least two months without the care of a keeper. applied a method which had previously been used in lightening lights" to obtain permanent occulting lights in which the occultations are produced by a system of screens supported on a revolving mercury float, but the rotation had been performed by a clockwork movements. It was necessary to adopt some other ro tating power. In the new method of rotation without clockwork the shaft itself which guides the float forms the axis of the armature of the electric motor. This armature consists of a Gramme ring containing 64 bebbins. The current from one cell enters the armature by means of two brushes which have an arrange ment for adjusting the pressure. The inductor consists of two permanent magnets separated from the armatore by a slight air gap. The current comes from two battery cells called "Bloc," filled with a soldified liquid, set up in series, and having a capacity of 550 ampere hours. Under these conditions a rotary velocity of about one revolution in ten seconds is obtained; this produces a proper rhythm, while a constant velocity is secured by means of a very sensitive regulator. The experiment shows that the apparatus intervention of a keeper. In practice, however, it growth, was vigorous and stout. would be well to change the batteries every two or three months. This would cost only about \$50 annually.

A fuller treatment of this most interesting subject, in an important paper from the pen of the same author, will appear in an early issue of the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN SUPPLEMENT. The above is an abstract in question.

Two-THIRDS of all the letters which pass through people who speak English.

#### Science Notes.

Hitherto no substance has been known which would absorb nitrogen gas at the ordinary temperature. M. method, that by common mineral oil. In Sweden and Guntz has been the first to discover such a substance England, but particularly in France, has this method in lithium prepared by his own process, which rapidly and with incandescence absorbs nitrogen at a temperature below dark red. This observation has been confirmed by H. Deslandres, who has repeated the experiment for the purpose of preparing argon from atmospheric nitrogen, as well as from gas from the spring of Maizières (Cote-d'Or).-Revue Industrielle.

A biography of Prof. Huxley is now being prepared will continue to burn. In order, therefore, to obtain by his son Mr. Leonard Huxley. All who are in pospermanency to the lights, it is necessary to use a wick session of letters or other documents of interest to the biographer are requested to send them to him at Charterhouse, Godalming, Surrey, England. They will be returned after being copied.

> M. Moissan has been elected president of the Chemical Society of Paris.

> The British warship Penguin, while engaged in making deep sea soundings between Tonga and New Zealand, got bottom at 5,155 fathoms. This surpasses east coast of Japan, when bottom was reached at 4,655 fathoms.

The Heat in Australia.—Mail advices bring details of the unprecedented period of intense heat which afflicted Australia during the first two weeks of this The warm wave seems to have extended over quarts of oil, B a cylindrical float, D a cylindrical box all of Australia. For two weeks the temperature was nowhere below 90° F. and in some localities it reached stroke, horses dropped in the streets and, with cattle and sheep, died by hundreds in the fields. Springs, creeks and wells dried up and the damage to crops was very great. Many bush fires occurred as the result of the great heat. An unusual feature of the heat wave

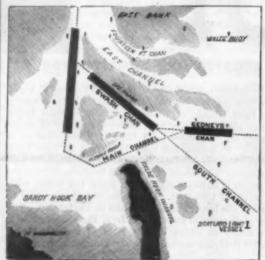


Fig. 1.-CHANNELS OF NEW YORK BAY.

was that a high wind blew most of the time; in some places the velocity of the wind was fifty miles an hour. It brought suffering instead of relief, as it was like the blast of a furnace and blew blinding clouds of dust as well. The heat was felt for a long distance out at sea.

It is said that the Swiss calcium carbide made at Neuhausen yields a large quantity of acetylene gas, from 401 to 481 cubic feet being produced from a pound of the carbide.

The Royal Academy of Medicine, of Belgium, offers prizes of 25,000, 8,000 and 5,000 francs for the most valuable researches on diseases of the central nervous system, with special reference to epilepsy. The competition closes September 15, 1899.

M. Flammarion, in the course of experiments on the radiation of spectrum colors, has made some interesting observations on sensitive plants. Four plants, sown the same day and of the same size, were placed upder glass, excluding respectively all but the red, green, and blue rays, the fourth plant being under ordinary white glass. At the end of six weeks the red plant was twice as high as any of the others, the green came next, then the white, while the blue had not grown the fraction of a centimeter. The red plant was healthy, but abnormally nervous, curling up at a some of the aniline dyes, a disadvantage not shared by breath. The plant kept under white glass, exposed to cedar oil, but it is stated that this does not take place may continue to revolve for five months without the the ordinary sun rays, though third in the order of with sufficient rapidity to interfere with the diagnostic

A German "viking" ship, said to be about 1,000 years old, has been discovered near the East Prussian frontier. It is 40 feet long, and the remains are fairly well preserved.

Corrosion of Aluminum.—Herr Donath, according to the Gas World, says that aluminum is not at all attacked by boiling distilled water free from air, but of the more immediately interesting parts of the paper that it is distinctly attacked by ordinary boiling wachlorides, and especially nitrates, make it attack the make these attack the aluminum. How about our ner for like purposes?

new aluminum kettles if this be the case? Herr Zmerzliker confirms these results, and says that bydrogen is given off.

That botanical gardens are popular in England is shown by the following figures: The visitors to Kew Gardens in 1895 numbered 1,407,360; the total for 1864 was 1,377,588, the average for 1885-94 was 1,416,887; the total number on Sundays was 536,181, and on week days 871,188; the maximum number of visitors on any one day was 18,588, on June 3, and the smallest 104, on November 28.

Dr. Kitasato, of Japan, is reported to have discov. ered a remedy for leprosy by inoculation.

It is found that a 50 year old camphor tree yields about 1781/2 pounds of camphor, and that a still, charged with about 200 pounds of camphor wood chips, yields from 41/2 to 7 pounds of camphor as a fair day's work. The chips are boiled in water over an open fire, and the resulting steam, upon cooling, yields both essential oil of camphor and camphor. In Formosa, most of the oil is thrown away; in Japan, it is employed in lacquer making and for other purposes.

The metric system came into force in Turkey on March 1. The local authorities have received instructions to call together the various trade corporations in order that they should provide themselves with the new weights and measures. The metric system becomes compulsory this year in Mexico and Costa Rica. It is recommended in the British Parliament that it be rendered compulsory in England in two years. In the United States serious consideration is being given by the House Committee on Coinage to the bill introduced by Mr. Hurley to make the metric system mandatory in all official transactions after July 1, 1897, and all private transactions after July 1, 1899.

La Nature contains a short note in which the horse power of a cannon is calculated. An Italian cannon of 100 tons, with a charge of 550 pounds of powder and a shot weighing about 2,000 pounds, will give an initial velocity of 528 meters per second; the length of time during which the power acts is less than one hundredth of a second, from which it follows that the borse power developed is about 17,000,000. The writer adds that after about 100 shots the cannon is put out of service, and its total active life is therefore only one second. In large modern cannon the horse power runs as high as 24,000,000. If the writer had carried out these calculations still farther, he would have found that, after all, this 24,000,000 horse power does not represent a large amount of energy, as it would be just sufficient to run 31 incandescent lamps for only one day.

The Russian government is to send an expedition to the Amoor to observe the eclipse of the sun on August 9. It will be under the charge of three astronomers from the Pulkowa Observatory. An American expedition will go to Japan to observe the same eclipse

The Italian statesman, Chevalier Cristoforo Negri, who was born in Milan in 1809, has just died. He founded the Italian Geographical Society, and spent much time in promoting expeditions to Central Africa and to the polar regions.

Pictures Under Artificial Light.-Interesting experiments are now being conducted in the South Kensington Museum, London, relative to showing pictures under artificial light. Capt. Abney has closed a skylight with alternate layers of green, bine and yellow glass. All of the most important actinic rays of light are thus excluded. Artists say that the pictures exhibited under this light are seen in their true colors. The rays which cause paintings to fade are excluded, and the effect of white light is obtained. The experiment is being tried in the Raphael Cartoon Gallery. The general public do not appear to notice any difference between the lighting of this and that of the other galleries.

Oil of cassia has a higher refractive index than cedar oil, and Dr. H. G. Piffard, of New York, finds it brings objects examined in it into sharper contrast. paper read before the New York Academy of Medicine, he stated he had worked with a sample having a refractive index of 1 508. Bacilli, examined in this oil, exhibited an unrivaled brilliance and sharpness of contour. The minuter details also, such as spores, flagelle, etc., are shown with a distinctness impossible in cedar oil. The oil of cassia, like the oil of cloves, tends to abstract the color from bacilli stained with examination.

CELERY OIL .- This is a new industry which Germany is endeavoring to foster. Distillers of essential oils have experimented with the distilling of celery during the past season, producing a few pounds. It is distilled from the green leaves, possesses the powerful aromatic odor and taste of the plant, and may arouse considerable interest among manufacturers of concenter. Gypsum in the water renders it harmless, but trated soups and preserved meats and vegetables. It requires 100 pounds green leaves to make one pound of aluminum. Fat or carbolic acid have no effect by oil. If it proves feasible to distill celery for flavoring the post offices of the world are written by and sent to themselves; but with ordinary water, boiling seems to purposes, why not utilize other herbs in the same manBUCENT EXPERIMENTS IN SCIENTIFIC KITE FLYING. some Experiences with Hargrave Kites .- After

spending three summers in making, breaking, mendin: and rebuilding Malay kites, always with an inet asing enjoyment and accumulation of information. bound myself forced to the conclusion that Malays tound myself forced to the conclusion that Malays enough. It should be dried in the shade. When dry, whereby undue wind pressure might be relieved and the cloth will be very stiff, and the bending back of the kite flown with less danger of breaking away. To

hour up. It was with considerable reluctance that I abandoned the Malay for use in high ands, and in the face of predictions that I would regret it, from kite fliers whose knowledge, based on experience, I respect; but after having made and tested Hargraves of very large and quite small dimensions, I reassert my belief in them with absolute confidence. I tested, on one occasion, a Malay weighing nearly 1 pound, having an area of 8 square feet, against a Hargrave weighing 11/2 pounds, having a total area of a little less than 10 square feet, in a wind of 20 to 25

The Malay, at an angle of 45 to 50 degrees, pulled from 4 to 9 pounds; the Hargrave, at the same angle, pulled from 6 to 17 pounds. The lift is easily calculated. The Hargrave was perfectly steady all the time and required no attention; whereas, the Malay, although in perfect condition, needed more or less looking after nearly all

This test was followed up by others almost daily, until from a mass of results there was no escape from the conclusion that the Hargrave was the steadier, the less likely to break or lose its shape in the air, and-what is more importantlifted much more per square foot of lifting surface. What is needed is a kite that can be anchored in the wind and left there without fear of disaster

fly steadily and will not demand constant mending

The thoroughly interested kite flier will supply himself with two or three Malays (say 4 or 5 feet tall) for light winds, and the same number of small Hargraves for heavier winds. In flying tandem they may be used together, and it will be found that the Malays are of great assistance in supporting the Hargraves in case the wind suddenly decreases below that velocity which the Hargraves require: whereas, if the wind increases beyond the point of efficiency for the Malays, they simply circle about or sag (as long as they hold together), and the Hargraves pay very little, if any, at-

nation tandem team is the best one for most purposes, and especially whenever the wind is uncertain or likely to decrease. With the certainty of a heavy wind, a team of small Hargraves will give one or two active men their hands full.

All mine were built on the proportions given by Mr. Hargrave in his published accounts, and varied in size from 8 feet spread and depth down to 80 inches. The largest turned out to be practically useless, unless I had one or two men to assist, on account of its enormous strength. It was very difficult to find the exact point of attachment, because it could not be readily and safely controlled during experiments. The same proved true of all the others, down to what may be called the "three foot limit." Here I found the most convenient and most useful size, the dimensions of which are given.

-J. B. Millet.

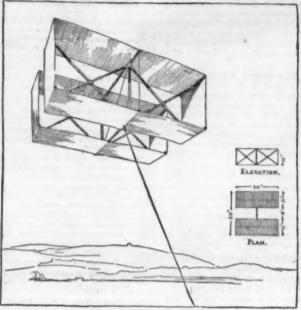
It will be found wise in three foot cellular kites, or less, to depend entirely on lashings with waxed shoe thread, and not to make any nail or screw holes. After the frame is put together, before sewing in the cover, paint all the lashings with liquid glue, This adds saturating them thoroughly. very much to their strength and stiffness My smallest kite is made in this way, and although it weighed but 11/2 pounds and exposed to the wind four planes (two in each cell) 30 × 11 inches, it safely outweathered many severe blows (the highest exceeding 35 miles an hour) and is still in good order. The only break was one of the side sticks, which was repaired in a very few minutes. The cover has stretched some, but without affecting the flying qualities to any great extent.

This kite, in a wind of 18 miles up to 35, would easily carry a thermograph weighing three pounds. The best altitude for a period of thirty minutes maintained by this kite was 1,600 feet, with a wind of 18 miles.

was greater than 45 degrees for half an hour.

The best material for sticks is small stiff bamboo, while the cover can be made of very thin cotton backbone were % by 1/2 inch. The cross braces for the go about like veiled prophets of Khorassan.—British cloth or percaline. After the cloth is on, and the kite cells were made elliptical in section, sharp edges ex- Medical Journal.

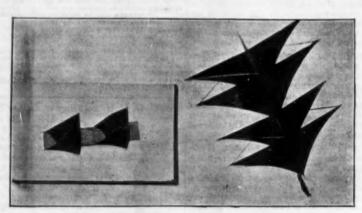
has been found by trial to fly all right, the cloth should be thoroughly saturated with starch made up with benzine, so that it will dry quickly. Do not use pressure, as you will be likely to stretch the covering. If put on with a wide brush it will cover evenly



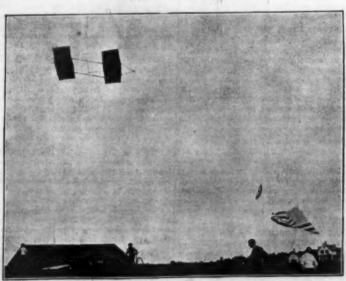
THE HARGEAVE KITE.

from considerable increase in velocity, and that will the front edges (especially of the fins) will be very It sailed away like a soaring bird, and rose as rapidly largely prevented; while the supporting planes will as we could let out the string. The large black boxes be much less likely to form pockets and thus increase the drift .- J. B. Millet.

Work on the Great Diamond.-Having an interest of long standing in aerial navigation and also inci- have carried up more line if we had possessed it. For dentally in kites, and seeing a description of Mr. Hargrave's latest box or cellular kites, I determined to make one. This kite, with some modifications of my own invention, has been about the most successful of any I have flown this year. The dimensions of my kite were as follows: Length of each cell, fore and not be easily held in the hand. This experiment took aft, 25 inches, which was the full width of the black cambric cloth used for a covering. tention to them. In my opinion, therefore, a combi- strengthened the selvedge edge. Breadth of each cell, of the ground, in order to test its capacity for being



LAMSON'S MULTIPLANE FOLDING KITE.



LAMSON'S MODIFIED HARGRAVE KITE.

There was exactly 2,600 feet of large cord out (break- 6 feet; depth, 2 feet; distance between the cells, 4 and insist on doctors shaving their heads and even ing at 100 pounds—far heavier and stronger than was feet 4 inches, making the full outside dimensions of their eyebrows. How would our professional sisters needed, but no other was convenient), and the angle the kite 6 feet wide and 8 feet 6 inches in length. Ma- like this? To live in the odor of antiseptic sanctity terial of frame, straight grained American spruce. we should, after due purification, clothe ourselves in The dimensions of the two strips constituting the cotton wool, wrap our heads in sterilized gauze, and

posed to the wind. Size of section % by % inch. This kite, having so much surface exposed to the wind, 50 square feet, was a very hard puller and uncomfortable to handle in a strong breeze. The writer therefore gave his attention to devising some arrangement

effect this purpose the two spars connecting the ends were cut near each cell and jointed so that the angle of the cells, in relation to each other and to the wind, could be changed at will. Two cords were used to limit and adjust this motion. The rear cell was weighted with a half pound of lead and the cells were rigidly fastened, with both cells at an angle of about 10 degrees to the backbone. An extension or bowsprit, about 20 inches in length, was added to the lower side of the front cell, and the flying string was then attached to the extreme point of same. This arrangement proved to be very successful, the pull immediately becoming so light that the cord could be held in the hand even in a high wind. Thus modified. the kite has never shown the slightest tendency to dive or to tip sidewise when flying, or when coming down after it has broken loose, always preserving an even keel and sailing away with a steady, majestic motion like a balloon, and landing softly on the ground without much injury to the kite.

Our kite floating at a good angle with all our available string, we determined at a future trial to see if we could not let out a full mile. Waiting for a suitable day, we finally had a perfect day, with a 15 mile breeze. Getting our reel into position and bracing the cells in line, everything being in readiness, we allowed the kite to go up.

of the kite were nearly out of sight when it reached its full limit. After the 6,000 feet was all reeled off it flew at an angle of about 40 degrees, and probably would added safety a short piece of strong, elastic cord was sandwiched in next the kite.

This event was much enjoyed by a large number of spectators, who assisted in winding in the cord. At no time was the pull so strong that the cord could place at Great Diamond Island, in Portland Harber, A narrow hem and after drawing in the kite to within about 300 feet

> towed, we took our apparatus aboard the steamer homeward bound, with the kite still flying in the air. Taking our position on the deck, abaft the smokestack, we succeeded in making the roundabout trip to the city without any trouble; the steamer meanwhile turning to all points of the compass in making stops at her landings. able to go ashore at the city before hauling down the kite and closing our day's sport.

The Multiplane Folding Kite.-Finding most kites rather troublesome to pack for transportation, the writer has invented a kite with triangular sails, having the frames jointed, so that the sails can be folded back against a central keel. The sails are also There are eight of adjustable in angle. these sails superposed in pairs, two at each end of the keel, or backbone. The arms present sharp edges to the wind. The keel is also jointed at the center. By folding the sails back, disjointing the keel and putting the two parts side by side, a large kite can be slipped into a paper or cloth bag, making an unobtrusive package, easily carried under the arm. -- Charles H. Lamson.

For the foregoing matter and cuts we are indebted to the Aeronautical Annual for

### Beards and Bacteria.

The bacteriology of the beard has not yet, so far as we are aware, been exhaustively studied; this might be a new world for one of our young Alexanders of pathology to conquer. That it is possible that disease can be carried in the manner suggested will hardly be denied, but we cannot say that we think the danger so great that doctors need sacrifice their beards on the altar of hygiene. Most will think even the careful sterilization of the beard on leaving a sick room a counsel of perfection. If the scrupulous hygienist thinks such a precaution necessary, he should be consistent,

#### RECENTLY PATENTED INVENTIONS. Engineering.

LOCK TO RAISE AND LOWER VESSELS. Franklin H. Bullis, Brooklyn, N. Y. This is a lock es pecially designed for use at the entrance to seaport har bors, and is so constructed that in passing through it the speed of vesseis need be but alightly or not at all re tarded. There are dikes and embankments at opposite sides of the channel, in which are larger and locks side by side, the two central locks being the larger, and the ends of each lock being closed by transversely novable gates. Each lock is provided with wicks mitting the admission or draining of water to and from the locks without opening the go

FURNACE -Michael J. Graney, Alle gheny, Pa. This furnace has a combastion chamber into which opens a suxing chamber provided with a gas supply near its bottom, a hot air chamber being located under the combustion chamber and connected at 'lis rear end with a cold air inlot. The bot nir chamber has in its front a downwardly extending passage leading to the bottom of the mixing chamber. The furnace is designed to be very simple and durable in construction, and to utilize all gases to affect the most complete comb

#### Railway Appliances

CAR COUPLING. - Daniel Collen, Inwood, Canada. This is a strong and simple coupler which couples automatically as the care come together, and comprises a gravity locking device and swinging kunckie, a spherical body in a chamber in the coupling head automatically moving beneath the locking device after it is raised, and being also adapted to n knuckle to an open position when the locking device is

TRAIN PIPE CONNECTION. - Harrison Reed, Logansport, Ind. According to this improvement a depending support is attached to the end of the car. with two coupling head sections and a pipe section pro jecting from each one, the pipe and head sections being arranged one above the other, while there are two verti cally movable crosshoads on the support, and a lifting lever. The invention affords reliable means for automatleally joining the steam or air pipes on cars, being readily adjustable to compensate for varying heights of car bodies from the track.

#### Electrical.

BRUSH FOR DYNAMOS AND MOTORS. Friedrich W. Kreinberg, Elsey, Prussis. Two kinds of brush are provided by this invention, one consisting of a conducting wire bundle, incased or hormetically closed by aluminum or similar soft material until used, another form of brash consisting of bundles of fine wires braided together and saturated with a lubricant, a wrapping of wire cloth surrounding the casing

RAILWAY SIGNAL SYSTEM. - Joseph Irwin, Omaha, Nob. This is a sectional signal system designed to enable an engineer having a train on a sec-tion to instantly determine when a train enters the sec-tion. The track raths at each station of the system are divided into pairs of insulated sections, two of the pairs having one of their members grounded and arranged to be connected by longitudinal bridging, in combination with a signal device, line wire and battery, forming three separate circuits, one setting the danger signal at the station in front, the other obliterating the danger signd the other cetting rearwardly facing danger signals of intermediate statio

#### Mechanical.

DIE FOR DROP PRESSES.-William H and William J. Clark, Salem, Ohio. This invention pr die, the body of which is made of tough cast metal and is provided with recesses or mortises adapted to receive a shaping block section made of forged or cast steel or chilied iron. Between the shaping block section and the body of the die is interposed a cushion of Babbitt, sinc, or other metal, so that the blocks will not crack under

WIRE GLASS MANUFACTURE, -Carl S. Weber, New York City. According to this improvement a carriage is arranged to be moved over the table on which is poured the molten giass to form a sheet, a wire feed and pressing roller being journaled in the front part of the carriage, and a pressing roller in the rear of the feed, a finishing roller being journaled in a frame piv-oted on the carriage in the rear. The wire netting is fed to the glass and simultaneously subjected to a rolling pressure whereby it is pressed completely beneath the

#### Agricultural.

CORN HARVESTER .- Wilson W. Smith, Pritchton, Ind. This machine, styled by the invento the "sclipse harvester," is adapted to be drawn between two rows of corn to cut and deposit it in piles ready to be ided into bundles. The harvester car carries the bandles from shock to shock, and the attendant has to afk only eight hills to set up a shock. of simple and inexponsive construction and requires but

MARVESTER. - Clarence Edgar, Toledo, Ohio. This is a machine in which a rotary gathering device takes the outlon from the bolls, aided by a pneumatic system, by which the cotton is com veyed to a receiver. The gatherers are composed of convergent rotary spindles, a parallel suction tube inclosiose one side of the peripheries of the spindles, which have a surface of card clothing. The slowly revolving picker spindles pass by the sides of the stalks as the maalong, entering among the limbs, allow ing the pickers opportunity to gather the open cotton

STRAW STACKER.-Peter Knapp, assigned to John Ten Barge, St. James, Ind. This is an improvement in nachines for stacking hay or straw by means of a preumatic rule, the invention providing a low-lying derrick or hoisting apparatus which may be reedily used in barns and other buildings, the preumatic

tube being vertically adjustable and operated laterally by power, and its sweep controlled, and an automatically operated reversing mechanism being provided. The machine is strongly made and inexpensive.

#### Miscellaneous.

CHOKE FOR GUNS .- Randolph P. Cory, St. Louis, Mo. This is a separate attachable choke, which may be used or removed at pleasure. The choke section has a band portion which fits over the muzzle of the gun, and on this portion are stude engaged by eyes on yoke arms of a latching device which engages a catch fixed to the gan barrel. The yoke arms may be sprung off the sinds to permit the use of the same yoke with dif ferent choke sections, several of which may be carried

BOTTLE REFILLING PREVENTION. John J. Walsh, Yonkers, N. Y. This inventor pro-vides a cap whereby the mouth of a bottle may be sealed without the aid of a cork, permitting the contents to be poured out through the cap, although the cap prevents the redilling of the bottle. The cap has a duct at one side and apertures to a main chamber in which is a gravity valve, a movable weight being located in the cap ver the valve, while a temporary seal locks the valve in

CARPET STRETCHER. - Courtland A. iain, Canton, N. Y. This is a simple de means of which a carpet may be stretched and held in stretched position while being tacked or nailed. A plate or board is provided with prongs to engage the carpot, and a standard on which is pivoted a lever is flexibly connected with and adapted to move the plate to stretch the carpet,

SASH FASTENER.—George W. Gardner nd Lewis Appleton, Philadelphia, Ps. A bead of the window frame, according to this improvement, is provided with a rack, and on the bottom rail of the sash, at the edge near the rack, is a easing in which is a bolt movable to engage the rack, the bolt being actuated by a rod which extends to a thumb plate and handle centrally ocated on the botto om rail. The sash may be raised and lowered, or locked in any desired position, by taking hold of the handle and pressing upon the thumb plate, using

BEDDING VENTILATOR.—Allan Fraser. rooklyn, N. Y. This device cons with flanged outer end and a cap fitting saugly on its inner end, the bottom of the cap being open, and a per-forated section being held in the body. The device is adapted to be pressed into and be self-fastening in mat tresses, beds, belsters, etc., to effect the thorough venti lation of the filling, prevent its usual tendency to pack and adhere together, maintaining it sweet and whole-some and keeping it clastic.

FAN.-Max Rubin, Brooklyn, N. Y. This invention provides an improvement in pecket fan n which the body of the fan is folded between arms when not in use. By means of the improvement the receiving and retaining arms are held rigidly locked when the fan is opened, having the same solidity as though the arms were integral, the retaining device act ing to securely hold the fan in closed or open position.

The fan is also held more closely folded than possible heretofore, the bulk of the handle being decreased.

COFFEE POT. - Herbert Nicholson, Red Lodge, Montana. This invention is for a perforated receptacle to hold the coffee or tea within the pot in such manner as to insure its thorough asturation and the obtaining therefrom of the greatest flavor and strength, while the holder is removable without opening the lid roper, thus taking out the coffee grounds or ten dreg vithout emptying the pot. The pot, with its holder and creening devices, may be readily cleaned.

SIRUP PITCHER.—Harry Noice, Hyde Park, North Dakota. This is an improvement in pitch which have a channel or way outside the pouring lip receive the drippings and return them to the pitcher. vement in pitch removable shell, forming a passageway to receive the drippings, is inserted in the neck, and there are two covers, one for the shell and one for the pitcher neck, the cover for the shell being opened and closed by the movement of the cover for the pitcher neck. The con struction is simple, preventing all entry of dust, etc., an keeping the sirup pure and clean.

AUTOMATIC FIRE EXTINGUISHER. Edward Livingston, New Orleans, La. This is an improvement on a formerly patented invention of the same inventor, and provides for pipes near the ceitings in buildings, each of the pipes having one or more fusion valves arranged to open when the temperature reaches about 160°, when fire-extinguishing fluid under pressure is discharged. Connected with the distributing pipe is a vessel connected with a supply tank, a liquid sealed gravity valve in the vessel controlling the supply of a

SURGICAL OPERATING TABLE. Richard Kny, Brooklyn, N. Y. According to this im-provement a longitudinally slotted table top is loosely connected to a frame and adjustable to various inclina-tions, a gotter being secured to the top to move there with. The table is arranged to be easily kept clean, and to permit the operator or nurse to convarious parts, to move a patient into any desir

VETERINARY SPECULUM. - Micheal Mc-Nally, St. Louis, Mo. This is an improvement in implements for holding open the jave of horses, etc., for ex amining the throat or administering medicine, and com prises pivoted sections having bits adapted to enter bear on the jaws, the frame having a convenient locking device for holding its sections rigidly in position after they have been adjusted.

#### Designs.

DISPLAY STAND.-Ernest Greene, New York City. This stand of imprises a polygonal casing with superposed panels defined by ornamental framwork, there being a dome of orn

City, Mo. This is a double bracket of substantian, the members being curved and termin mtal surfaces at top and bottom.

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(6758) G. C. G. asks how to drill or bore



a giass shade. A. To drill a quarter inch hole in a glass shade, make a hole in a piece of wood or metal of the size that you desire to drill in the glass. Fasten it with beeswax upon the glass for a guide. A piece of bras or copper tabing, quite thin, is supplied with emery (No. 100) and water and twiried between fingers, or with a bow string. This will cut a hole in a few minutes This will

You can feed the emery and ough the tube. The sketch will give an idea as to the principle

(6759) G. G. asks: What kind of glue or coment can I use that will dry quickly and very hard and tough when thickly applied to several sheets of paper? I have tried Le Page's glue and Major's cement. The latter dries hard enough, but not quick enough. I wish to use it on an ordinary platen printing press for embossing purposes. A. Ordinary flour paste is usually used for the purpose you mention. A sma of good give added to the paste might impr

(6760) L. S. asks: 1. How many and what kind of battery will it take to each 6 candle power incandescent electric lamp to give a steady and bright light for eix consecutive hours each night, and, also, how often will the batteries need refilling? A. Use 5 cells se-condary battery. Address the Electric Storage Battery Company, Drexel Building, Philadelphia, Pa., for same, 2. What kind of battery will suit best for an inductio coll? Can you give me a receipt to prepare carbon paper? A. Melt 10 parts lard, 1 part of wax, and mix with a sufficient quantity of fine lampblack. Saturate unglazed paper with this, remove excess and press.

(6761) X Ray says: 1. I desire to charge a series of Leyden jars with a large induction coil, and when charged, wish to employ the stored current to work a second induction coil. Should the second or discharge coil be in the circuit while the series are being charge manner I anticipate, or in one large spark? A. It must be out of circuit. The discharge will appear as a single spark. Of course, it will really be oscillatory. 3. Can you give me the formula for substances that po ce ? A. See our Supplement, Nos. 318 and 981, and for imminous paint, Nos. 299, 497, 989, and 966, po

BRACKET.-Dewitt C. Bowen, Kansas & How can I determine when the Leyden jare above re ferred to are fully charged? A. Use a pith ball electro scope, with a scale to measure divergence of the balis Determine by experiment the divergence corre-to the maximum sparking distance.

> (6762) E. R. L. asks: 1. Have articles shed in Scientific American of Scientific AMERICAN SUPPLEMENT concerning telephones? Method of wiring wanted most. If so, what numbers? A. Yes; very numerous and interesting ones. See our Supplement catalogue and consult the query printed below. 2. Articles about simple calculations in electricity. What numbers? A. For these we refer you to Stoane's "Arithmetic of Electricity," which we can supply for \$1 by mail. S. Can back numbers of SCHENTIFIC AMBRICAN and Scientific American Supplement be obtained?
> A. All of the Supplements and the Scientific American for a number of years back, at 10 cents each, by mail

> (6763) H. M. writes: I am in want of a telephone, good for a distance of 400 or 500 feet. I should prefer a simple one which does not require a battery. Please give me information so I can procure circulars and descriptive catalogues. A. We refer you to our SUPPLEMENT, Nos. 142, 163, 191, 425, 500, 591, 562, 568, 856, 966, and others, for tel-

> (6764) W. W. M. asks: 1. What objections are there, if any, to a caustic potash battery? A. Low potential. 2. How does its economy compare with that of other batteries? A. Very well. 3. Can the caustic votash early the form word as here? How? potash solution be made from wood ash lye? How? A. Yes; by treating with caustic lime, settling, and decanting. Better use caustic soda. 4. How can one tell when the solution is down to asturation? A. Weigh the caustic soda, so as to get a 30 per cent solution

> (6765) M. N. asks: Would you be so kind as to answer in your Notes and Queries whether the motor (Supplement, No. 761) will stand 110 volts if the field is wound with No. 27 wire and the armature with No. 30; and will it stand 230 volts if the field is wound with No. 30 and the armature with No. 38 wire? A. A motor is made to stand a current, not merely by the size of the ount of wire of the specified size, and by the counter E.M.F. of the armature. Windings must be differently calculated according to whether a m shunt or direct wound.

> (6766) W. G. M. asks: Can the light from a Crookes tube be seen? If so, why is it called non-luminous? I don't see how it could be light without being luminous, or how it could cast a shadow to take a picture. A. The tube gives fluorescent light, but, in X ray photography, rays of unknown nature and absolutely invisible and non-illuminating are employed. We sug st that you refer to our Supplement, Nos. 181, 189, 248, 944, 792, 795, 905, 990, and 1050, and to the recent numbers of the Scientific American, especially those of February 15 and 22 and March 7.

> (6767) G. G. writes: I have two copper ted) wires stretched parallel to each other a about 4 inches apart, from my house to the barn, which make quite loud sounds on still, cold nights. Can tell me cause or the theory of the sound? A. It is duced by the wind. "Antihuma," or India rubber pa old, designed to prevent the s

(6768) E. D. asks: Could the dynamo described in Suprizmant, No. 161, be run as a motor, power being supplied from a battery? If so, could the armature be made of sheet iron punchings? A. It can be run as a motor. The dram armature for it is described in our SUPPLEMENT, No. 599. It is better than the two

(6769) Ralph asks the best steel to use in building a small magneto-generator, and the process to go through to get the best results. A. Use good tool steel. It is better to buy your magnets ready made. They are sold for your purpose as "machine me

(6770) K. G. G. writes: 1. I am in a position to have the use of vacuum pump and sulphuric acid. How should I connect up the necessary apparatus to freeze water? A. Simply connect your flack to the system, and maintain a vacuum above the water. Wrap the flask up in a thick non-conducting covering. 2. What is meant by the term monocyclic system of electrical dis-tribution? How does this system differ from the ordinary direct current system? What is the nature of the current? A. A simple alternating current, going first in one direction and then in another. 3. How can I test clay to know what percentage of alum By a chemical analysis.

(6771) C. W. E. asks: 1. Please indicase the pronunciation of Roentgen. A. Approximately, Runtgen, the g hard. 2. Our school building is heated by the hot air system. From the registers on many days an electric spark may be obtained; also from the metal portions of the seats or chairs, and sometimes when two persons clasp bands they feel an electric shock, Will you explain the cause of the same 1. A. The six is an electric shock. plain the cause of the same? A. The air is so dry that static electric excitation is easily maintained. The indications are that provision should be made for moistening the air. Your hot air system so

(6779) W. C. M. asks: Could you tell ne how to wind the 8 light dynamo for 110 volts? Also, if I could do it by winding the armature different, but leaving fields the same (wound with No. 16 gage)? A. You could approximate to your requirements by using wire about one-third smaller in cross area on the field and armature. To change one and not the other would give poor results. Sloane's "Arithmetic of Electricity," \$1, by mail, gives such calculati

(6773) J. E. P. asks whether be can rent magnets to a telephone neto that have lost their magnetism by the magneto hav-ing been run at too high speed for a long period. Can it be done by a battery current? Will the magnets have to be retempered? They still retain some magnetism, but not enough. A. You can remagnetise the magnets with a coll and strong current, or, perhaps, by simply touching to the poles of a dynamo field, and drawing away slowly, without axial change. Retempering is not needed.

(6774) M J. B. asks : Can a 8 to 5 horse ver motor described in SUPPLEMENT be wound to run

on are light circuit? Will you give changes to make?

A is not practicable to do what you describe, partly
for considerations of safety and partly from the effect
of motor on the circuit. Winding for the current of
ircuit, so as to get counter E.M.F. and resistance
of the to represent an are lamp, is the basis of the solu-

1775) C. S. H. asks: What lengths of N. 18, 30, and 36 copper wire have a resistance of one one. A. Approximately, 153 feet, 41 feet, and 2-35 feet practively.

6776) H. M. B. asks why the X rays are enamed. A. We take it that X is used to indicate the name of feature in the rays. X is the algebraic symbol of an unknown quantity.

6777) E. D. asks: How small can a dynamo be made which will generate a sufficient current to apply one 3 candle power incandescent lamp, and of wint voltage and amperage would it be? A. Special dynamos have to be calculated. The dynamo shown in SUPPLEMENT, No. 161, with the drum armature shown in No. 599, is approximately the size. A. 3 candle power lamp rates at—ohms 3 6 to 4 5, volts 5 5 to 7, amperes 1 to 1 39.

(6778) J. W. asks: Can you tell me why weakening the field magnets of a motor increases its speed? A. It weakens the field, and hence reduces the counter E.M.F. due to any specified armature speed.

(6779) O. S. wries: 1. I want to erect a lot of grape trellises, handy to the house that I live in. Would like to use a lot of old one inch gas pipes. Would the gas pipes cause danger from lightning, or would they be a preventive or safety against lightning? A. They will be an element of safety, if connected to the ground; otherwise, they will be without effect one way or the other. 2 Suppose a tunnel is driven 130 yards in a hill. The hill is 90 feet high at the head of the tunnel, up through the ground to the surface. The hill has an even slope all the way. How many yards would it be from the tunnel mouth to a pag in the ground directly over the head of the tunnel? A. Nearly 134 yards.

(6780) M. S. P. writes: In building a storage battery, by laying a sheet of coated lead plate on the bottom of a jar, then a sheet of some insulating substance, then a sheet of lead, and so on, alternate plates connected to lead rods running to the top of the cell, what is the beat substance to use between the lead plates? I thought of using asbestos paper, but it is very easily torn when wet. A. Asbestos paper is excellent and its fragility will not militate against it, because it will not be materially disturbed unless you overcharge too vigorously, so as to cause strong evolution of gas. Flannel has been used, but it decays.

(6781) W. A. H. asks: Can the cores of the field magnets in the small motor described in Sur-PLEMENT, No. 641, be made of cast iron, and, if so, what proportions? A. Yes; follow the slae given, or, if possible, make it a little thicker than shown.

(6782) Engineer writes: If I stand on a glass stool, I cannot be hart by touching a high power electric current. If I am standing on the earth, I am killed. How does the electricity find out I am insulated? Does the electricity stop at my hands, because it has seen that the stool will stop it? A. The entire surface of the body is charged as you stand on the insulated stool. When ground is connected, the current, as such, passes through the body, with the effects of a more or less severe, possibly fatal, shock. The charge does not stop at the hands, but extends over the entire surface of the body.

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#### INDEX OF INVENTIONS

Por which Letters Patent of the United States were Granted

March 3, 1896,

AND EACH BEARING THAT DATE.

See note at and of list about comes of these retents

| See note at and of list about copies of these pate  | omts.)   |
|---|--|
| Acid and obtaining it, citricphenetidin, B. R.<br>Sellert<br>Alarm. See Burgiar alarm. Speed indicating<br>alarm. | 566,711<br>586,800   |
| Alarm system, district. M. E. Barrett   | 565.491<br>555,762<br>556,569                                  |
| Armature for induction motors, A. L. Cushman  | 545,628<br>545,851<br>555,899                                  |
| Barbers' chairs, shamprooing attachment for I   | 555,581<br>556,827<br>556,800<br>865,594<br>865,886<br>556,876 |
| Bath tub, C. F. Burnap.<br>Bearing, roller, F. Mossberg.  | 555,960<br>555,560<br>555,655                                  |
| Bed, invalid, J. T. Hall<br>Beit shifter, P. H. Pratt   | \$56,510<br>566,860<br>555,735<br>\$66,630                     |
| Bicycle driving mechanism, A. Dubreuil.   | 555,694<br>555,896   |
| Steycle apeed indicator, J. C. G. Bonney  | 665,988<br>855,498<br>865,967                                  |
| Boats of vessels, stage apparatus for, J. H.  | 566,486<br>565,542   |
| Boiler, Plenty & Miller   | 555,800<br>M6,800  |

|                        | ~ *******   | ***   |                       |
|------------------------|---|---|-----------------------|
|                        | Book lock, E. E. Rogers.  Book, mechanical cash, A. D. Smith.  Boot, or shoemakyrs' jack, O. Johnson.  Bottle, W. M. Breck.  Bottle, W. M. Breck.  Bottle, W. M. Breck.  Bottle indicator, polson. E. Reyer.  Bottle vashing machine, M. E. Donally.  Bottle washing machine, M. E. Donally.  Bottle washing machine, M. E. Donally.  Box saving machine, H. Imman  | . \$55,89<br>. 555,74<br>. 555,89                             | 00000                 |
|                        | Bottle indicator, poison, E. Reyer. Bottle, non-fillable, J. Bird. Bottle washing machine, M. E. Donally. Box. See Ballot box. Car sand box. Music box  | . 566,70<br>. 566,50<br>. 566,50                              | 8888                  |
|                        | Box taying machine, H. Inman  | 566,69<br>566,88<br>565,81<br>844,61                          | 868                   |
|                        | to, H. & H. A. Iuman.  Bracket. See Shelf bracket.  Brake. See Bicycle brake. Car brake. Fluid  pressure brake. italiway brake. Vehich  | . 605,00  | 1                     |
|                        | brake. Brakes, safety appliance for electric, W. B. Pot-<br>ter. Brick machine, W. E. Damon.  | . 555,566<br>. 565,800  | 5                     |
|                        | Brush, air, O. C. Wold. Brush bandle attachment, G. Davenport   | . 555,686<br>. 555,696<br>. 565,896                           | 91                    |
| 1                      | ter   | . \$65,786<br>. 566,810<br>. 565,980                          | 200                   |
|                        | Button and button fastener, O. W. Ketchum.  Cam, B. Schneider.  Cam, B. Schneider.  Cambras, Bee Magarine camera.  Car brake, R. Feckhum.  Car brake, R. Feckhum.  Car brake, R. Feckhum.  Car coupling, T. Hagen.  Car coupling, T. Hagen.  Car coupling, automatic, J. Buckley.  Car durft mechanism, railway, R. H. Marsball.  Car safety attachment, C. D. Shrader.  Car sandow, F. W. Wilson.  Oar window, F. W. Wilson.  Cars, automatic life guard for, C. M. Beebe.  Cars, automatic life guard for, C. M. Beebe.  Cars, automatic life guard for, C. M. Beebe.  Cars, ander hancer, for coloritically recognition.  | . 555,536<br>. 555,596<br>. 555,896                           | a l                   |
|                        | Car coupling, W. F. Richards  | . 555,50<br>. 555,63<br>. 566,50<br>. 566,50                  | 8                     |
|                        | Car safety attachment, C. D. Shrader.<br>Car sand box, street, T. L. Monaghan.<br>Car wheel guard, street, J. W. Dariey, Jr.<br>Car window, F. W. Wilson.   | . 566,596<br>. 566,777<br>. 566,906<br>. 566,786<br>. 566,786 |                       |
|                        | Cars, automatic life guard for, C. M. Beebe. Cars, electric propulsion system for, G. H. Me- lotte. Cars, motor banner for electrically propelled, E. Peckham. Carbonator, F. A. J. Kaiser. Card feeding machines, automatic alarm for, J. F. Geb.  | 565,750<br>555,750<br>586,783                                 | 1                     |
|                        | Carbonator, F. A. J. Kaiser. Card feeding machines, automatic alarm for, J. F. Geb.   | . 555,500<br>. 555,514<br>. 555,690<br>. 555,756              | - 1                   |
|                        | Card feeding machines, automatic alarm for, J. F. Geb. Carpet stretcher, W. G. Bertram. Carpet sweeper, W. T. Hoss Cartridge loading machine, G. M. Peters Cartridge loading machine, G. M. Peters Case. See Revolving case. Case for holding and displaying samples of cards. C. H. Pedrick. Caster, L. B. Denton. Caster, ball. A. H. Marden. Centrifunal apparatus, G. M. Andersson Centrifunal machine for manufacturing weldless, H. Chains, machine for manufacturing weldless, H.  | . 555,963<br>565,734  |                       |
|                        | C. H. Pedrick. Caster, L. B. Denton. Caster, ball, A. H. Marden. Contrifusal apparatus, G. M. Andersson.  | . 565,618<br>. 565,680<br>. 565,576<br>. 565,890              | 50000                 |
|                        | Chair. See Hammock chair.   | . 000,101   |                       |
|                        | Chair, I. Weis & Woerner. Chair, J. Gilson. Channeling machine, A. Bali. Chimney cowi, J. M. De Lanoy. Chimney, ventilating, W. J. Gordon. Clamp, See Soldering clamp. Clamp, J. Mowrer. Clamphar or securing device, F. W. & E. P. Par-  | . 566,643<br>. 566,678<br>. 566,763<br>. 565,648              | H                     |
|                        | Clamp, See Soldering clamp.<br>Clamp, J. Mowrer.<br>Clamping or securing device, F. W. & E. P. Par-<br>sons   | 555,614   |                       |
|                        | Clarinet reed supporter K. R. Cadwallader<br>Clasp. See Garment clasp.<br>Cleaner. See Dish cloaner. Furnace cleaner.<br>Grain cleaner. Kuife cleaner.<br>Clothee rack, G. Bartlett<br>Clutch for card feeding machines, C. H. Wood-  | 556,563   | -                     |
|                        | Clotbee rack, G. Bartlett.<br>Clutch for card feeding machines, C. H. Wood-<br>bury.<br>Coni cutter, electric, L. E. Storey.  | 565,843<br>565,840<br>565,832                                 |                       |
|                        | Cutton for card reeding machines, C. H. Wood-<br>bury. Oal cutter, electric, I. E. Storey. Coffee making machine, J. Denk. Coffee, B. M. Handshy. Collar, Borne, C. J. Westfall. Collar, apilit slip, G. Johnson. Collar, borne, C. J. Westfall. Collar, borne, C. J. Westfall.   | 566,832<br>566,500<br>566,907<br>566,545<br>566,512           |                       |
| -                      | Coriars, tool for dampening four lines of, n. Barnes, coloring matter, yellow, R. Nietzki. Compass, drawing, A. K. Cross. Copying press, letter, E. B. Millert. Core boriar apparatus and means for gripping and raising cores, F. H. Davis.  | 555,490<br>556,088<br>566,808<br>566,668                      |                       |
| -                      | Corner staying machine, H. A. Inman   | 565,660<br>565,496<br>555,818                                 |                       |
|                        | Cotton gin seed conveyor, R. S. Munger. Cotton picker, D. W. Gaskill. Coupling. See Car coupling. Crate, bicyole, H. G. Streat. Cue triumer, J. N. McIntiro. Cultivator, S. C. Cobb. Cultivator, Shaller & Watchorn. Cultivator, riding, M. A. Sattloy. Cultivator ciding, M. A. Sattloy. Cutter beat of the Carrie. Cutter beat G. S. J. Shluer. 565.742.  | 565,838<br>565,740  |                       |
|                        | Cultivator, S. C. Cobb  | 555,628<br>555,628<br>555,698                                 |                       |
| -                      | Currain pole, Harvey & Harris.  'utter. See Coal cutter   | 565,659   |                       |
|                        | Disinfectant holder, H. P. Roberts.  Disinfecting apparatus, C. Herscher.  Door, automatic self closing, I. F. Miller.  Door lock, sliding, Larsson & Schultz.  | 555,570<br>556,888<br>555,779<br>555,779                      |                       |
| 1                      | Disinfecting apparatus, C. Herscher, Door, automatic self cloring, I. F. Miller. Door lock, sliding, Larsson & Schults. Door track, sliding, J. W. Conchar. Draft equalizer, L. J. Sevison. Dreft equalizer, L. J. Sevison. Dreft, F. L. Bigelow Dreft, F. L. Bigelow Hussey, | 566,848<br>556,622<br>555,704<br>566,756                      |                       |
| 1                      | Dye from dinifro anthrachrysone disalfo aced, H.<br>Laubmann<br>Dyeing machine, yaru, M. H. Masland.<br>Blow making machine, O. P. Briggs.  | 555,904<br>555,909<br>555,494<br>555,498                      | 1                     |
| 1                      | A. Welles, Jr   | 585,544   |                       |
| 1                      | Slectric meter, G. A. J. Teige.   | 555,850<br>555,569<br>555,508                                 | 1                     |
| 1                      | Gibbs.  Gibbs.  Gibts.  Gibts.  Heetrical conductors, method of and apparatus for preparing or treating, C. E. Carpenter  Escarboiler.  Garbon into, W. W. Jacques.  Garbon into, W. W. Jacques.  Escarbor magnet for separating metals, Whitacre & Wolfe   | 555,896<br>555,511  |                       |
| 1                      | & Wolfe.  & Wolfe.  Revator Shaft closing mechanism, H. D. Adell  Smery wheel, C. L. Merithew.  Singne. See Gas engine. Gas or oil motor engine. Steam engine.  | 565,546<br>865,895<br>565,670<br>566,579                      | CD. on me and         |
| 1                      | gine. Steam engine. Engines, indicator reducing motion for, Turner & Mekcel. Engraving machine, B. 8, Molyneux. Engraving and A. Mortagon   | 565,668<br>565,561<br>566,613                                 | B. 75.72.76.70        |
| 1                      | A Melked.  A Melked.  A Melked.  A Melked.  A Melked.  B Molynear.  Envelope, asfety. A. Mortenson.  Excavating, ounveying and loading or unloading earth, etc., upon or from railway ears, machine for, M. W. Robinson et al.  Extension table, E. A. Loomis.  *aucet attachment. self measuring, C. H. Kaup.  *reed rack and trough, G. Williams.  *eed trough. A. Lewis.  *ence post, Potts & Baro.  *ence wire, Apparatus for handling, J. B. Crowder.  *ence wire, apparatus for handling, J. B. Crowder.  | 555.800<br>165.777  | 750 750 750 750 750 7 |
| THE RESERVE OF THE RES | Faucet attachment, self measuring, C. H. Kaup.<br>Feed rack and trough, d. W. Williams.<br>Feed trough, A. Lewis.   | 556,820<br>565,839<br>565,783<br>565,617                      | D785 785 785 78       |
|                        | rence, wire, J. B. Maner<br>Fence, wire, C. D. Shellaberger<br>Fence wire, apparatus for handling, J. B. Crow-<br>der<br>Fences, device for attaching stay wires to wire.   | 566,883<br>565,666<br>555,849                                 | Manage of             |
| -                      | W. J. Jacobs.  Pilter, C. E. Inco.  Pilter, water, F. W. Edgington.  Piltering cane julce, apparatus for, J. W. Fleet-  | 565,914<br>566,773<br>565,686                                 | 100                   |
| The same limit         | Pittering device, liquid, J. Lameon, Jr   | 555,855<br>555,821<br>555,634<br>565,698                      | 0.0.00000             |
| 1                      | Bour bin and dough board, combined, G. F.   | 555,549<br>555,915  | 16.00 cm op or        |
| -                      | Purnace. See Heating furnace. Metal heating   | 555.575<br>556.575  | Chancer               |
|                        | Furnace cleaner, G. W. Manuel.  Furnace grate, F. E. Culver.  Furnaces, method of and apparatus for beating bleats for smelling J. W. Nesmith.  | 566,579<br>566,679<br>566,836                                 | 0.00000000            |
| ( ( ( )                | furnace. Smelting furnace.  "urnace caner, G. W. Manuel  "urnace grate, F. E. Culver  "urnace grate, M. F. Mulready   | 555,746<br>565,875<br>555,791<br>555,796                      | 20000 00              |
| 666                    | ias burner, J. F. McElroy.  as engine, Weinman & Kuchenbofer  | 565,796<br>566,796<br>566,796                                 | 8 88                  |
| 6                      | late, W. W. Hatfield  | 555,027   | 000000                |

| Hammock chair, W. W. Blair.  Hand hook, merchandise, H. F. Dalton. 655,681 Handle for hardware, etc., J. L. Moore. Handle for hardware, etc., J. L. Moore. Handle for hardware or analogous articles, Moore & Brown.  Moore & Brown.  Hanger. See Fipe hanger.  Hanger. See Fipe hanger.  Harmess attachment, E. Waltacre. 555,680 Harrow, F. C. Merrill. 555,690 Hay carrier track, W. Louden. 555,695,697,655,098 Hay loader, W. S. Rhoads. 556,995,655,097 Hay loader, W. S. Hoads. 556,995 Hobby horse, F. J. Smith. 556,095 Hobby horse, F. J. Smith. 556,595 Hooby horse, F. J. Smith. 556,595 Hooby horse, F. J. Smith. 556,595 Hooby horse, F. J. Smith. 566,595 Hooby horse, F. J. Smith. 566,595 Hooby horse, F. J. Smith. 566,595 Hoop, C. R. Smith. 566,712 Horseshoe nall machines, feeding apparatus for I. Tjerneld. 556,595 Horseshoe nall machines, feeding apparatus for I. Tjerneld. 566,594 Hoe holder, H. J. M. Howard. 566,594 Hoe holder, H. J. M. Howard. 566,594  | Sta                        |
|---|----------------------------|
| Moore & Brown   | 80<br>80<br>80<br>80<br>80 |
| Harrow, F. C. Merrill. 555,863  Harvester, C. A. A. Rand. 555,863   | Ta                         |
| Hay carrier track, W. Louden  | Ta<br>Ta<br>Ta             |
| Heater. See Tank heater. Water heater. Heating furnace, S. Forter   | Te                         |
| Hobby horse, F. J. Smith  | Th                         |
| Hook and eye. E. A. Johnson   | TI                         |
| Indicator. See Bleycie speed indicator. Bottle  | To                         |
| Initiation apparatus for secret societies, B. & U. S. De Moulin   | TTTTT                      |
| Jack   Keyboard player, R. T. Smith   565,744   Knife. See Flaner knife.   Knife cleaner and sharpener, J. D. Johnston   565,819   Knob, door, G. E. Schofer   565,900   Ladder, extension. L. C. Trefai   565,800   Ladder, extension. L. C. Trefai   565,800   Lamp, electric arc, E. Lavens   565,000   Lamp, electric arc, E. Lavens   565,700   Lamp, anaponaton of incandescent gas, F. E. Nichol   565,700   | Tr                         |
| Anno, door, et. E. Senorer  | Tr                         |
| Lards, fats, oils, etc., machine for mixing and   | Tr                         |
| Lathe dog, H. J. Aichele.   | TTY                        |
| Leather dressing compound, Stovens & Schroeder. Level, E. Hobnbaum. Level, Jumb, L. J. J. Aubert. Level, plumb, L. J. J. Aubert. Level, plumb, L. J. J. Aubert. Lifting lack, W. C. Crawford. Lifting lack, W. C. Crawford. Liquids. method of and apparatus for elevating. Miste & Foeter. Lock. See Siecycle lock. Book lock. Door lock. Lock. See Siecycle lock. Book lock. Lock. See Siecycle lock. Lock. See Siecycle lock. Lock. Book of See See See See See See See See See Se   | Ty                         |
| Life and wheel guard, adjustable, E. Peckham 555,538 Lifting jack, W. C. Crawford   | Un                         |
| Misic & Foeter Lock. See Bicycle lock. Book look. Door lock. Locomotive, steam, W. P. Henssey   | Va<br>Va                   |
| Magnagium aniglum and applied accommand of O  | Va<br>Va                   |
| We likelead   | Va<br>Ve<br>Ve<br>Ve       |
| Measuring instrument, electrical, A. H. Hoyt  | Ve<br>Ve<br>Ve             |
| Milk heating device, Knobel & Bontly 555,515 Milk sterilizer, H. M. Myers 555,637 Moistening apparatus, C. A. Peple 565,616 Monocyclic generator, E. Thomson 555,530  | W                          |
| Motion, means for changing, J. J. Hamilton. 555,507  Music box, C. H. B. Bock. 555,737  Musical instrument, A. H. Merrill. 556,651  Nations reaching, G. Gruender.  | W                          |
| Nailing machine, G. Gruendel         655,572           Nozsie, spray, P. J. Haas         556,573           Oil and water separator, E. Austin         565,553           Ore and metallurgy thereof, separation of frank-  | W                          |
| linite, J. P. Wetherill   555,798   Packing device, G. B. Garrison   555,708   Padlock, J. Murphy   555,728   Paper box clamping device, W. S. Bianchard   555,846  | WI                         |
| Pen, fountain marking, W. N. Fessenden.         555,763           Penholder, W. W. Cole         555,676           Pencil, lead, C. W. Frost         555,690           Pencil sharpener, B. S. Chevrier         355,690  | WI                         |
| Pessery, G. J. Gladman.       555,695         Piano caso, K. A. Modee       605,612         Piano coupler, G. H. Arthur       665,682         Picker. See Cotton picker       665,682   | Wi                         |
| Monocyclic generator, R. Thomson   505,590  | Wi                         |
| Waliace Piston rod and cross head connection, E. J. Mul- ler. M66,636 Planer knife, S. J. Shimer. M66,741   | WI                         |
| Pintor Pod and cross mean connection, g. J. aun-   167.   168. |                            |
| Plow, subsoil, A. B. Cummings. 556,804 Pocket companion, F. W. Bacho. 566,752 Post. See Fence post. 58e Conving press.  | But<br>But<br>Cap          |
| Preserving unfermented grape Jules, C. Staubes. 555,880<br>Pump, gravity power, I. T. Dyer  | Car<br>Car<br>Car          |
| Post. See Fence post. Press. See Copying press. Presserving unfermented grape juice, C. Staubes. 555.880 Presserving unfermented grape juice, C. Staubes. 555.880 Pump, gravity power, I. T. Dyer. 555.749 Pump pregulator, boiler, C. A. Straub. 555.549 Pump strainer, C. C. Stiner. 555.549 Puxple, D. B. Stephens. 555.497 Pyroxylin solvents, making, G. O. Zeller. 555.549 Rack. See Clothes rack. Feed rack. Railway prake, electric, J. C. Henry. 555.492 Railway closed conduit electric, C. Anderson. 555.495 S55.498   | Car<br>Car<br>Cig<br>Gar   |
| Railway brake. electric, J. C. Henry. 555,687 Railway closed conduit electric, C. Anderson. 555,487 555,488 Railway, electric, H. M. Hunter 555,698   | Ha<br>Ho<br>Nai<br>Pat     |
| Railway, electric, H. M. Hunter. 250,488 Railway rail cutting machine, W. B. Hammond. 556,596 Railway signat, electrical, W. Fiedler. 556,096 Railway system, electric, A. J. Beltzel. 556,900 Railway or other electric conductors, bond or connector for electric Boursonville & Zim-   | Pic<br>Pla<br>Slig         |
| mele. Sta.846 Reamer, expansible shell, J. A. Little. 555,965 Reel. See Wire reel.  | Ste                        |
| Refrigerator crate, Thomas & Truby  | Bley                       |
| Register.         See Teleophone call register.           Revolving case, W. L. Yost.         555,550           Bock drill feed screw, W. A. Keyser         555,60           Bope tie, J. P. Hisley         555,47           Rowlock, O. O. Storle.         555,47           Saddle, barness, W. A. Walker         555,47           Saddle, barness, W. A. Walker         555,22           Safety pin, Curran & Whalley         555,22           Sal, fore and art, G. H. Wilson         556,57           Saw, draw, M. A. Reeves         556,57  | Bia:                       |
| Sash, window, L. H. Broome. 565,597 Saw, drag, N. A. Reeves. 565,898 Saw for sawing meats, etc., swinging, J. Marshall 555,649  | Coff                       |
| Saw for sawing meats, etc., swinging, J. Marshall         555.569           Saw, inserted tooth. A. Krieger         565.517           Saw sharpener, C. H. Douglas.         565.57           Saw tooth, detachable, A. Krieger         565.57           Saws, machine for making, G. P. Salisbury         565.57           Scale bearing, C. A. Heyer         565.78           Scale polse, G. L. Presott         565.78  | Grin<br>Hea                |
| Scale Dearing, C. A. Heyer.       500,708         Scale poise, G. L. Prescott.       555,881         Scale, weighing, A. Rebelski       565,681         Scourer and polisher, J. N. Wheeler       555,629   | tron                       |
| connector for electric, Bournonville & Elm- maile.  | Lan                        |
| Seed delining machine, cotton, F. W. Cross. 555,565<br>Separator. See Grain and seed separator. Mag-<br>netic separator. Oil and water separator.<br>Steam separator.   | Pap<br>Pap<br>Piai         |
| Separator, O. M. Morse         M68.874           Sewing machine, F. A. Mills         505,824           Shears.         See Si eep abears.           Sheep shears.         R. P. Landrum           655.778   | Pin                        |
| Shelf bracket, T. Corscaden. hbb.722<br>Shelf, explosive, E. M. Johoson bb.774<br>Signal. See Air brake signal. Railway signal.<br>Signaling circuit, J. J. O'Counell. hbb.707  | Plan<br>Pow<br>Pow         |
| Sifter, ash, P. A. Welch     565,596       Skate, roller, A. R. Ferguason     555,591       Skirt, bicycle, A. Sessier     555,595       Skirt supporter, J. M. Davies     555,082  | Ren<br>Skir<br>Soaj        |
| Sleigh, J. Bellinger.     \$55,55       Sleigh runner, O. A. Moe.     \$65,86       Smelting furnace, C. Cunningham, Jr.     \$66,89       Soap cake, L. S. Samuel     \$55,663   | Sode<br>Stat<br>Stat       |
| Soldering ciamp, plumber's, M. Slotkin  | Ston<br>Tack<br>Tea.       |
| Sole leveling machines, adjusting device for, E. E. Winkley. 655,567 Sole or beel, J. H. Borrett. 665,568 Soles, carriage for rounding out machines for   | Tea.<br>Ton                |
| Separator. See Grain and seed separator. Magnetic separator. Oil and water separator. Steam separator. Oil and water separator. Sewing machine, F. A. Mills   | A                          |
| speed measure and slarm, G. E. Kastengren. 555,775<br>spinning machine separator, E. M. Whitzum. 555,911<br>spinning machinery, cop and tube, Gilyard &<br>Ward.<br>Stamp applying machine, G. M. Guerrant. 555,644<br>stationery articles, receptacle device for, L. F.  | is oe<br>of th<br>Broa     |
| Ford. 555,566 a steam engine, balanced, J. J. Heilmann. 555,566 a   | Carenta<br>roina<br>f co   |
| steam generator, C. R. Benton   | Date                       |

| 2   |   |
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| ŕ   | Stethosoope, A. H. Mitchell   |
| į   | Stone saw, circular, A. Mills   |
| 8   | Stoves, automatic lighter for gas, W. J. Gurd 555,765   |
| 8   | Strainer, tea, A. R. Pritchard  |
|     | Straw stacker, pneumatic, Huber & Miller 555,923  |
| š   | Swaging machinery, W. O. Bemens 500,000, 900,721  |
| 9   | Swing, W. H. Richmond 556.887   |
| 1   | Table. See Extension table.   |
| 1   | Tacking machine, E. Woodward  |
| 5   | Tag stringing machine, H. L. Chapin   |
| B   | Telegraphy, facsimile, A. W. Storm  |
|     | Telephone call register, H. Hempel  |
| ě   | Temperature regulating apparatus, W. P. & F. W.   |
| ŝ   | Powers  |
| B.  | Thermometer and barometer, S. Elenardson  |
| _   | Thermometer, oven, A. P. Hariand. 564,277 Thill support, H. F. Goding. 555,505 Thrashing machine, W. J. Raydolph 565,505  |
| š   | Thrashing machine, W. J. Handolph 568,000   |
|     | Tile, wall, J. V. V. Booraem  |
| 5   | Timing apparatus, G. F. Brackett  |
| ŝ   | Toy, F. B. Scaife   |
|     | Trace carrier, H. W. Cooper   |
| 1   | Trace carrier, Gilliand & Nevill  |
| 1   | Track gage, Payne & Jeter 555.526   |
| ١   | Track structure, Howe & Angerer   |
|     | Trees from vermin, means for protecting, A. D.  |
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|     | Trolley head, W. H. Carr,   |
| 5   | Trolley pole and connection, C. H. Finson 585,371   |
| i   | Trousers, L. S. Shauer  |
| 3   | Truck, C. S. Percy 556,582 Truck and its gear, car, 16, Peckham. 555,326  |
| •   | Truck, car. E. Peckham  |
| 2   | Truck, freight car, E. Cliff  |
| e l | Truck, radial car. J. H. Graham. 555, 957   |
|     | Tub. See Bath tub.  |
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|     | Type writing machines, carbon holder for, M. J. Sunderlin. 555.765  |
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| 8   | Umbrella riba hama or mark tablet for 9 Lean  |
| •   | oyd   |
| ,   | Valve, H. T. Bush   |
| 8   | Valve mechanism, steam engine, Haberkorn &  |
| 6   | Umbrella ribs. name or mark tablet for, S. Lear- oyd. Valve, H. T. Buch. Valve and stopper, G. H. F. Sobrader. Söb. 750 Valve mechanism, steam ungine, Habertorn & Haley. Valve operating mechanism, throttle, K. Rush- ton. Söb. 750   |
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| F   | Wheel. See Emery wheel. Scouring or buffing   |
| H   | Whip, Kelly & Cullius   |
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| H   |   |
| i   | Windlassing machine, J. Mathison  |
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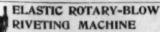
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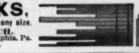
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